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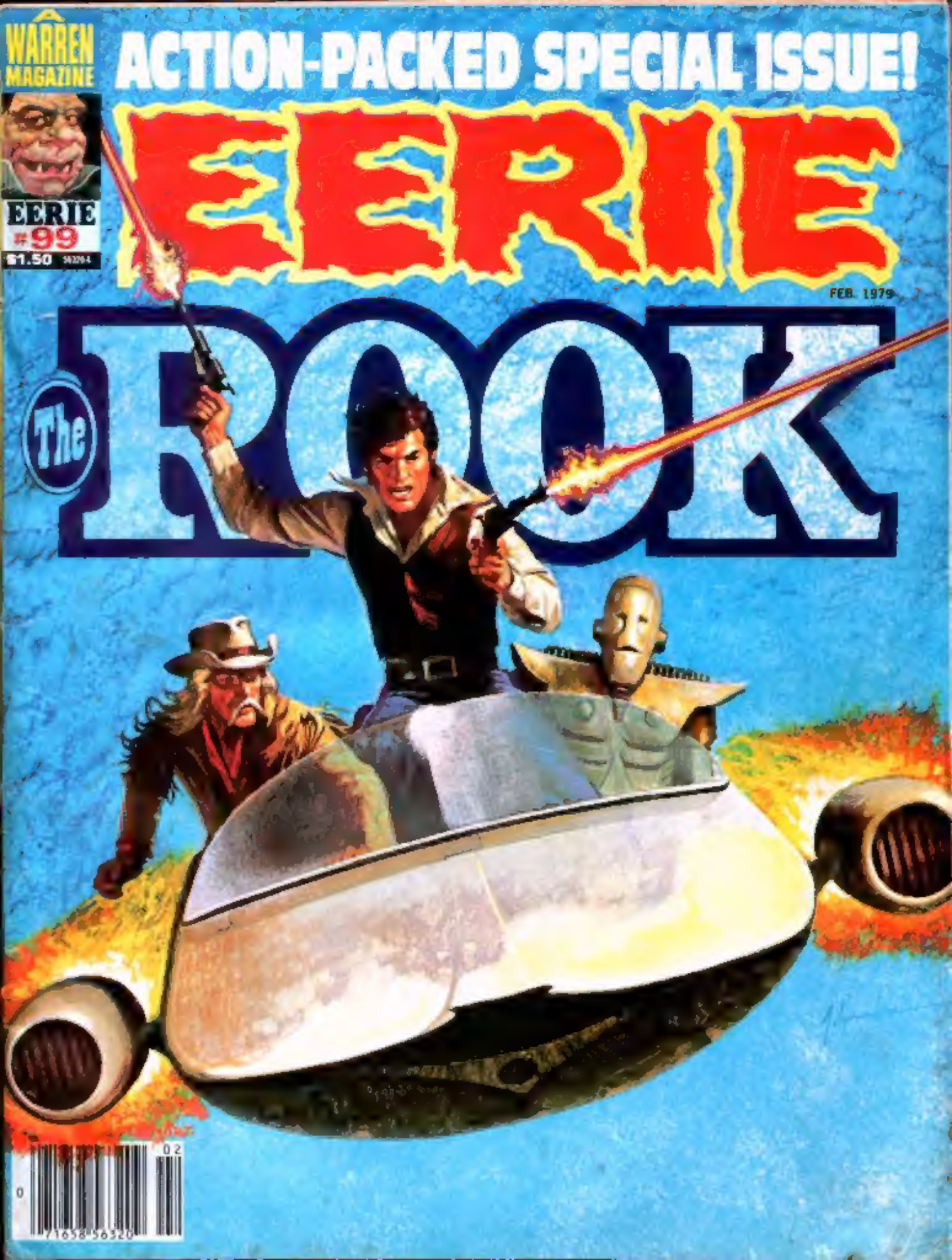
FEB. 1979

The ROOK



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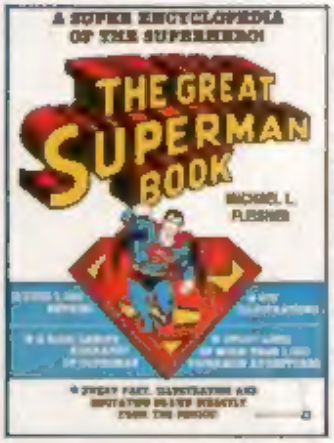

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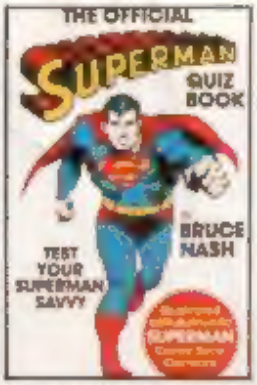

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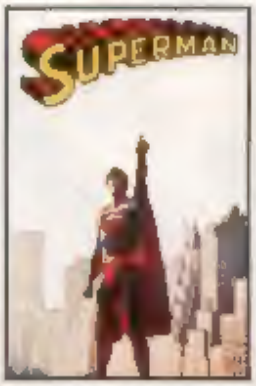

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Writers In This Issue
CARY BATES
NICOLA CUTI
BILL DuBAY
LEO DURANONA
BRUCE JONES
LOUISE JONES

Artists In This Issue
ALFREDO ALCALA
LEO DURANONA
PABLO MARCOS
JOSE ORTIZ

EERIE No. 99 PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT APRIL, JULY AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 9 ISSUES FOR $12.00 IN THE U.S. CANADA AND ELSEWHERE $15.50.

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EERIE®

CONTENTS ISSUE No. 99 FEBRUARY 1979

4 DEAR COUSIN EERIE It's all relative or so say all our readers! We had an overwhelming response from our fans in trying to figure out what happened to the length of a mass as it's speed accelerates to that of light.

5 THE ROOK Hickey Lubus, the accountant for the Rook, is certain he would have been a billionaire if his great grandfather hadn't given away Hong Kong. Well, if you can get a-hold of a time machine you might change things!

25 THE COMIC BOOKS Brancatelli gives us a glimpse of the goings on at a series of events and parties which are related in a vague way to the comics industry. From the Ambassador Grill to Studio 54 it's pretty wild!

26 HORIZON SEEKERS PART I In a world that has subsided into endless desert and unregenerate savagery there are those few who seek to stitch back together the scattered remains of civilization and build a new world!

37 THE SHINING SEA PART II Gurn finally meets his people as they come streaking out of the green sky to the lands bordering the Red Sea. Gurn begins to learn some of the heritage he lost as a space-wrecked human!

47 HARROW HOUSE II On a barren hilltop in Maine, squats an ugly victorian apparition which seems to be a house. What is it really? Is it a gateway into a sinister dimension of evil? You are in for a harrowing experience!

57 A CRACK IN TIME Somewhere in the dark past, perhaps during the last ice age, Cro-magnon met and fought Neanderthal. The result was a catastrophe. Somewhere and somehow that meeting had to be preserved for science!

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Dear Cousin Eerie,

c/o WARREN PUBLISHING CO.
145 E.32nd STREET
NEW YORK,
N.Y. 10016

The math and physics of relativity are far too complex and voluminous to be treated properly in a letter column, and, despite **Mr. Cuti**'s optimism that "it is easily seen," many of your readers may barely know the difference between a radical sign (√) and a radish, yet are still intrigued by the ideas ventured.

We do seem to live in a "relativistic" universe—full of strange paradoxes predicted, in part, by **Einstein** and others, and demonstrated, in part, by tests, experiments and observations. For the most part, the Man in the Street is totally unaware of the effects of relativity, because, even though he is hurtling around the Sun at about 67,000 miles per hour, he lives his life at speeds that conform to the physics of **Galileo** and **Newton**.

Relativity deals with those portions of the universe that experience non-Newtonian speeds and accelerations (changes of speed)—speeds that approach the so-called "terminal velocity," the velocity of light: slightly more than 186,300 miles per **second**. Relativity theory predicts that matter (mass) can approach this speed, just achieve it, but certainly never exceed it. As it approaches that velocity, a number of curious things apparently occur.

1. The mass of the body increases as the velocity increases, until, at the speed of light, the mass becomes infinite. An infinite mass cannot be accelerated; therefore, the velocity of light cannot be exceeded.

2. If the mass had some measurable dimensions (length) at lower velocities, we would find that these dimensions changed as the velocity increased. The length would become measurably smaller, until, at the velocity of light, we would have obtained a body of matter having infinite mass and **no** dimensions.

3. If the mass carried some kind of clock that we could observe continuously, we would find that, as the velocity of the mass increased, time would be slowing down. At the velocity of light, time, for our infinite mass with zero dimensions, would have stopped, ceased to exist.

There are other observations that may be made, dealing with energy conversion, distortion of space in the vicinity of relativistic bodies, gravitational considerations and so forth. These are beyond the scope of the questions discussed, but interested readers (and writers) would find much to consider in even a rudimentary look into relativity theory. A good introduction for the general reader may be found in **George Gamow**'s "One, Two, Three . . . Infinity."

ROBERT BENEDICT
Ridgefield, Ct.

For the clearest explanation of the scientific theories behind Nicola Cuti's "Einstein Factor," Robert Benedict wins the "Masters of Comic Book Art" paperback, featuring the work of the best comics professionals today.

The only thing that I want to say is that you've got to keep giving us the great art work of **Leo Duranona**! I think he's great! Especially on the scripts of "Gaffer," he showed us he really knows what he's doing.

LAURA DURANONA
Central Islip, N.Y.

EERIE #96 was an exciting, refreshing change from most of the previous issues. By concentrating the bulk of the magazine on one series, you were able to put a lot across. "Fallen Angels" was very interesting. I found myself unable to put the book down once I started reading it! **Leo Duranona** contributed some very weird artwork. He has turned a commonplace setting like a city slum into a site right out of a horror story—which is what it probably already is—but with this artwork, it really got scary! I wouldn't mind seeing future installments, if the quality could be kept to this level.

I enjoyed both "The Ark" and "The Shining Sea." It was good to finally see **Walt Simonson**'s inks on "The Ark," and **Alfredo Alcala**'s "Sea" was great as usual.

HENRY KUZEMKA
Camden, N.J.

In issue #95, on page 43, you began a story called "Harrow House." You said that it was to be continued in #96. It is not in issue #96, WHY???

I have never known you people to make this kind of mistake, but you're only human, so I forgive you, but I am still disappointed. Please finish it for the next issue #97.

Reading EERIE is a very good pastime, and I enjoy it. I can tell that it's being written on a college level. Scripting such complex tales certainly can't be child's play. The stories are classics, and some should be made into television films.

I am really into "Harrow House." It is one of the best that I have read.

SCOTT HAYES
Greenville, S.C.

Sorry you had to wait so long for completion of a story you liked so much, Scott, but deadline problems prevented us from running it sooner. We hope the conclusion lives up to your expectations.

I bought your little magazine (EERIE #96) to see what it is like. Frankly I've never been so bored in all my life . . . actually, only "Fallen Angels" was dull. When I read the first page introduction, I thought it sounded like a good idea. But the result was a poor imitation of a "Baretta" or "Kojak" show.

"Mac Tavish" wasn't too bad, just too wordy. It's not that I have anything against words (I use enough of them), but too many words de-emphasize the visual action which is the basis for all visual medium stories.

The final story, "Shining Sea," was pretty good. Not really great, just good.

MIKE SOPP
Erie, Pa.

EERIE #97 was terrific! Especially all the dinosaurs. I lived out in the land of the dinosaurs out around Vernal, Utah. You can see their remains all over the place. **Carlson** did an excellent job drawing everything in that issue. But I have one complaint: when **Carlson** first drew "Yours and Mine Forever," he left the bra off the Big Busts! This time a bra appeared out of nowhere! It's not nice to hide mother nature!

WILLIAM MULLER
Salt Lake City, Ut.

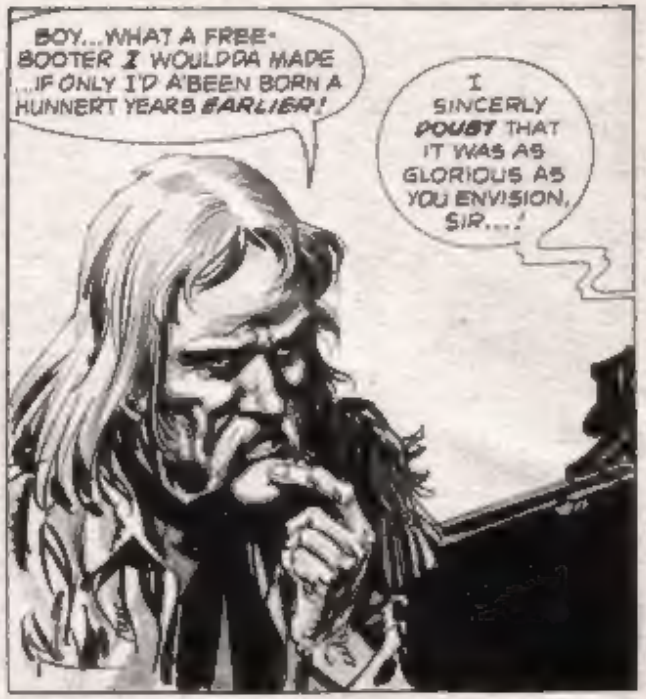
#97, the **Carlson** "Time Travel Trilogy" special issue was very well done. In fact I found only one discrepency. The soldier guarding Karen in "Yours and Mine Forever" was depicted as a special forces soldier. The uniform of a Special Forces Soldier consists of a green beret, not a steel pot, and a pair of paratrooper wings worn above the left breast pocket. Ribbons are not worn on a fatigue uniform. Steel pots are only worn on airborn missions. I know because I am a Special Forces soldier. Thanks for the compliment!

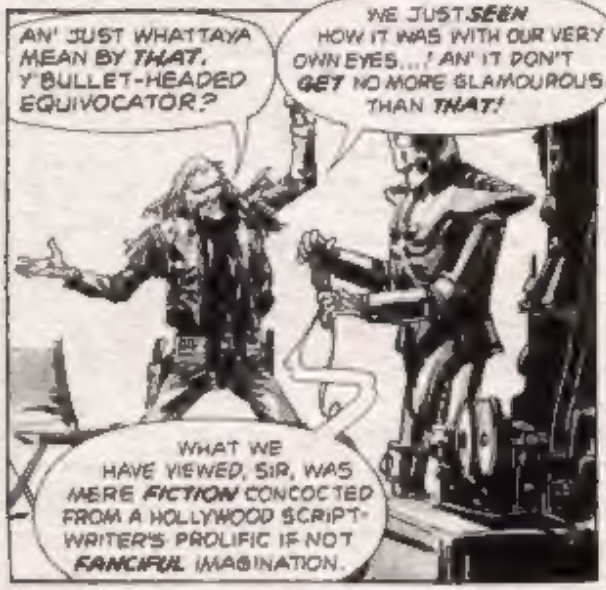
CPL. LARRY YERICH
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

The ROOK

WRITER: BILL DuBAY/ARTIST: JOSE ORTIZ

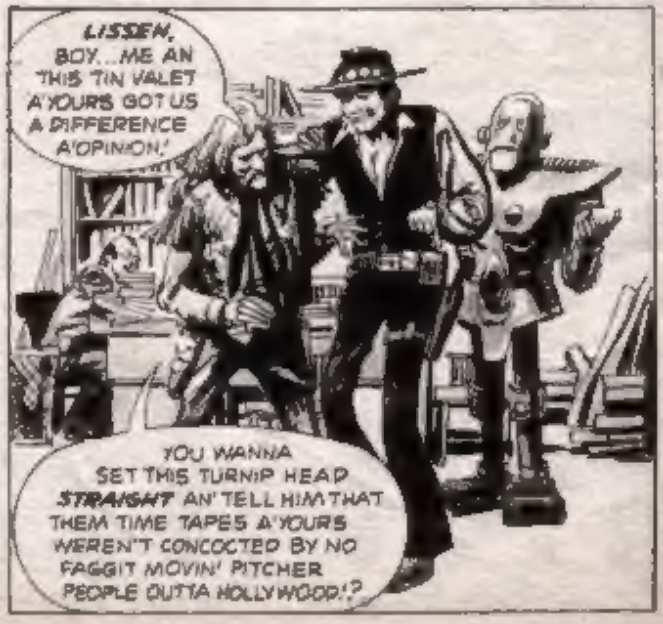
THAT I AM, Y'RATTLEHEAD TIN BUGABOO! IF'N YASK ME THEM PIRATIN' CORSAIRS HAD THE RIGHT OUTLOOK ON LIFE...
...THEY KNEW MEN WAS MEN AND WOMEN WAS TAKEN...AN' PIRATIN' WAS A RESPECTABLE WAY T'TURN A DOLLAR!

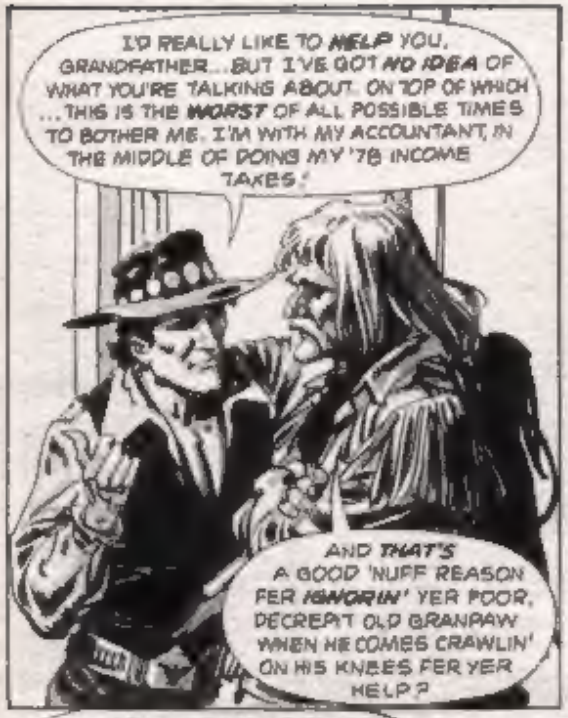

BOY...WHAT A FREE-BOOTER I WOULDDA MADE ...IF ONLY I'D A'BEEN BORN A HUNNERT YEARS EARLIER!
I SINCERLY DOUBT THAT IT WAS AS GLORIOUS AS YOU ENVISION, SIR....!

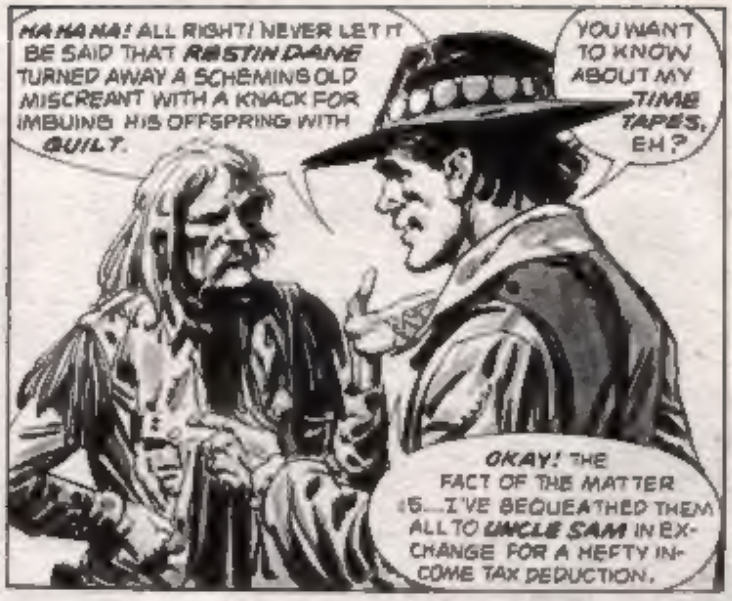

AN' JUST WHATTAYA MEAN BY THAT, Y'BULLET-HEADED EQUIVOCATOR?
WE JUST SEEN HOW IT WAS WITH OUR VERY OWN EYES...! AN' IT DON'T GET NO MORE GLAMOUROUS THAN THAT!
WHAT WE HAVE VIEWED, SIR, WAS MERE FICTION CONCOCTED FROM A HOLLYWOOD SCRIPT-WRITER'S PROLIFIC IF NOT FANCIFUL IMAGINATION.

YER OFF YER TROLLY, BOY! WHAT WE JUST SEEN WAS UNADULTERATED FACT...RECORDED BY M'VERY OWN GRANDSON WITH SOME NEW-FANGLED TIME-TRAVELLIN' MOVIN' PITCHER TALKIN' 'YENTION!
SIR, IF IT WILL CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE, YOU CAN CORROBORATE MY VIEWS WITH MASTER DANE.

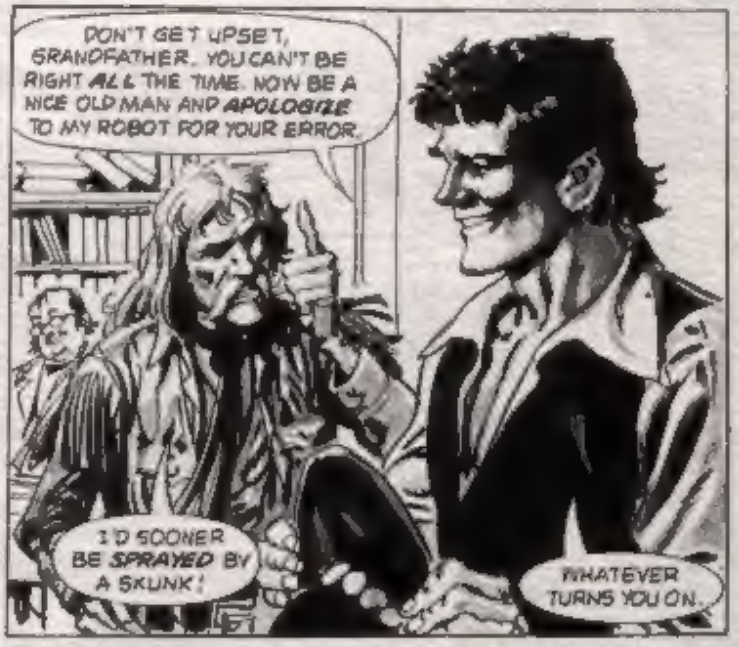
Y'DANG RIGHT I WILL, Y'COG-BRAINED SIMPLETON! AN' MAYBE ONCE Y'LEARN WHAT A GENUINE HORSE'S BEHIND Y'ARE, YOU'LL LISSEN T'THEMS WHAT KNOWS MORE 'BOUT THINGS THAN YOU!
UH OH! I FEEL ANOTHER HEADACHE COMING ON!

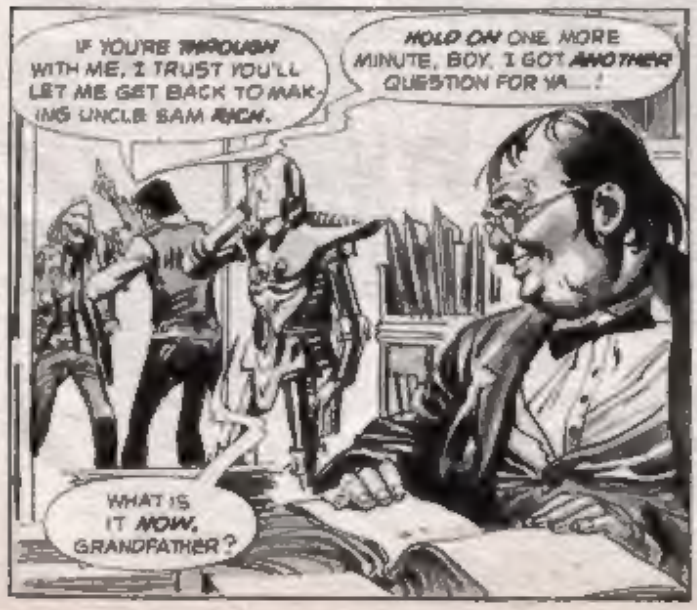

LISSEN, BOY...ME AN THIS TIN VALET A'YOURS GOT US A DIFFERENCE A'OPINION!
YOU WANNA SET THIS TURNIP HEAD STRAIGHT AN' TELL HIM THAT THEM TIME TAPES A'YOURS WEREN'T CONCOCTED BY NO FAGGIT MOVIN' PITCHER PEOPLE OUTTA HOLLYWOOD!?

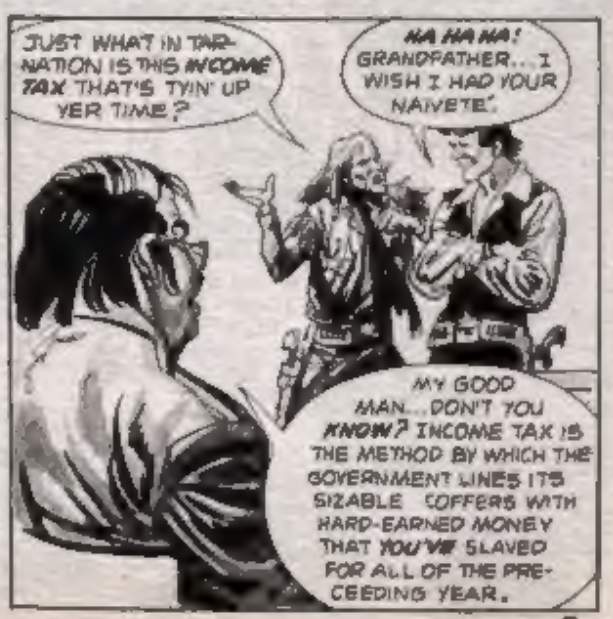

I'D REALLY LIKE TO HELP YOU, GRANDFATHER...BUT I'VE GOT NO IDEA OF WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. ON TOP OF WHICH ...THIS IS THE WORST OF ALL POSSIBLE TIMES TO BOTHER ME. I'M WITH MY ACCOUNTANT, IN THE MIDDLE OF DOING MY '78 INCOME TAXES!
AND THAT'S A GOOD 'NUFF REASON FER IGNORIN' YER POOR, DECREPIT OLD GRANPAW WHEN HE COMES CRAWLIN' ON HIS KNEES FER YER HELP?


HA HA HA! ALL RIGHT! NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT RESTIN DANE TURNED AWAY A SCHEMING OLD MISCREANT WITH A KNACK FOR IMBUING HIS OFFSPRING WITH GUILT.
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MY TIME TAPES, EH?
OKAY! THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS...I'VE BEQUEATHED THEM ALL TO UNCLE SAM IN EXCHANGE FOR A HEFTY INCOME TAX DEDUCTION.

SO...SINCE MY TAPES ARE ALL IN GOVERNMENT HANDS, THAT WHICH YOU'VE RECENTLY VIEWED IN THE PROJECTION ROOM, CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN A SAMPLING FROM MY MOTION PICTURE ARCHIVES
ERGO... MANNERS IS CORRECT...WHILE YOU ARE IN ERROR.
WHAT!?
"FAGGIT MOVIN' PITCHER PEOPLE," AS YOU SO ARTICULATELY PHRASED IT, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER IT WAS THAT YOU VIEWED.


DON'T GET UPSET, GRANDFATHER. YOU CAN'T BE RIGHT ALL THE TIME. NOW BE A NICE OLD MAN AND APOLOGIZE TO MY ROBOT FOR YOUR ERROR.
I'D SOONER BE SPRAYED BY A SKUNK!
WHATEVER TURNS YOU ON.


IF YOU'RE THROUGH WITH ME, I TRUST YOU'LL LET ME GET BACK TO MAKING UNCLE SAM RICH.
HOLD ON ONE MORE MINUTE, BOY. I GOT ANOTHER QUESTION FOR YA...!
WHAT IS IT NOW, GRANDFATHER?


JUST WHAT IN TARNATION IS THIS INCOME TAX THAT'S TYIN' UP YER TIME?
HA HA HA! GRANDFATHER...I WISH I HAD YOUR NAIVETE'.
MY GOOD MAN...DON'T YOU KNOW? INCOME TAX IS THE METHOD BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT LINES ITS SIZABLE COFFERS WITH HARD-EARNED MONEY THAT YOU'VE SLAVED FOR ALL OF THE PRECEEDING YEAR.

BLASPHEMER! LIAR! PREVARICATOR! SLANDERER! BITE YOUR TONGUE! THE GOOD-HEARTED U.S. GUMMI'NT DON'T DO NO SUCH THING!
GAAA! WHAT DID I SAY?
GRANDFATHER...NO! HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH! EVERY CITIZEN WITH AN INCOME HAS TO GIVE PART OF THAT INCOME TO UNCLE SAM. IT'S THE LAW!

DOES THE PRES'DENT KNOW 'BOUT THIS? WHEN DID THEY GO AN PASS A TOMFOOL LAW LIKE THAT?
YOU SHOULD ASK HICKEY J. LUBUS, ACCOUNTANT TO SUPER HEROES AND MERE MORTALS ALIKE. HE'S THE SPECIALIST IN TAXES.
HICKEY... MY GRANDFATHER!
ER...CHARMED, I'M SURE! TO...UH, ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, SIR...! THE AMERICAN PEOPLE VOTED FOR A TEMPORARY INCOME TAX BACK IN 1914, TO HELP PAY FOR THE GREAT WAR. LIKE IT OR NOT, IT'S BEEN WITH US EVER SINCE...TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED PROJECTS.

WHAT A BLOCKHEADED THING TO DO! IF THE GUMMI'NT NEED'S MONEY WHY DON'T IT JUST GO OUT AND PRINT IT?
BECAUSE THAT, SIR, IS THE MOST SIMPLE, MOST RATIONAL SOLUTION...
...AND IF ANYTHING, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS DECIDELY NEITHER SIMPLE NOR RATIONAL!

THAT DOES IT! I DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR THIS PLASTIC, SMOG-SMOTHERED WORLD EVEN 'AFORE I LEARNED ABOUT INCOME TAXES! BUT WITH 'EM...IT'S A WONDER A BODY CAN SURVIVE!
I'M GONNA GET ME BACK T'THE SIMPLER TIMES, AND LIVE THE KIND'A LIFE MEN WAS MEANT T'LIVE...
OH NO, SIR! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
SMELLIN' TH'SALT SEA AIR...SAILIN' THE FREE AN' OPEN SEAS...KILLIN' AN' MAIMIN' IN TH'NAME'A FREE ENTERPRISE!

AND WHY NOT?
BECAUSE, SIR... PIRATES ARE A NASTY LOT. THEY'RE NOT THE GLAMOROUS DEVIL-MAY-CARE ADVENTURERS THAT HISTORY WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE.
WHY, IF NOT FOR A SCURVY BAND OF CUT THROAT CORSAIRS, I MYSELF WOULD BE A MAN OF MEANS TODAY!
MY OWN GREAT GRANDFATHER, SIX GENERATIONS REMOVED...HICKEY J. LUBUS THE FIRST, AN ACCOUNTANT WHO GAVE UP HIS DROLL LIFE IN FAVOR OF ADVENTURE IN THE ORIENT, LOST HIS WAST HOLDINGS TO EASTERN LANDLOUPERS WHO LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!

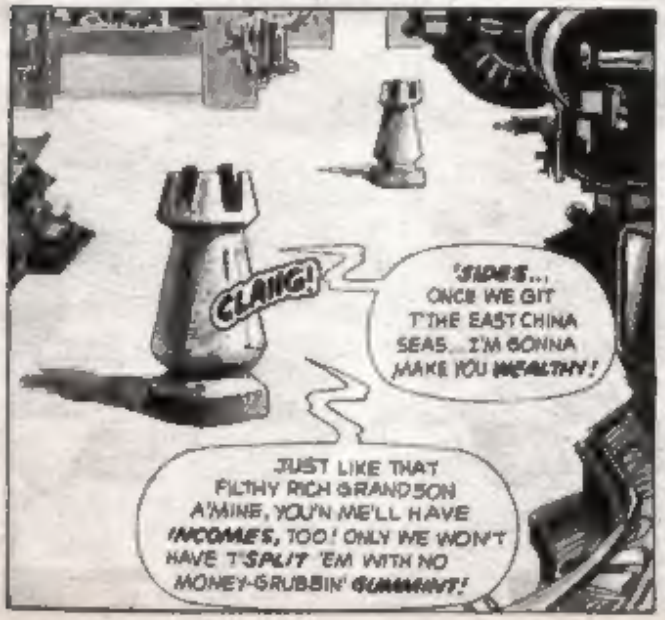
IS THAT A FACT? WELL... GAWEN THEN! MAYBE I'D BEST STAY RIGHT HERE WHERE IT'S SAFE AND SOUND!
C'MON, MR. MANNERS...YOU CAN SHOW ME THAT NEEDLEPOINT I'VE JUST BEEN DYIN' TO LEARN!
N-NEEDLEPOINT, SIR?
WE'LL LET THESE GOOD GENTLEMEN FINISH SHARIN' THEIR WEALTH WITH THE THIEVES...ER... WITH THE GOOD LAWMAKERS OF WASHINGTOWN!

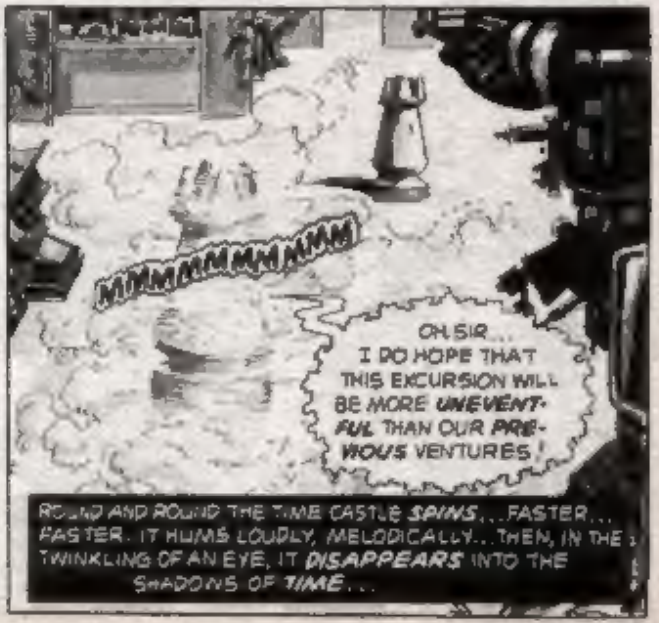
MASTER BISHOP... I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU'VE HARBORED AN INTEREST IN NEEDLEPOINT. JUST ALLOW ME TO GET MY BASKET AND WE'LL BEGIN YOUR FIRST LESSON DIRECTLY.
YOU MUTTON-BRAINED CITY-SUMPKIN! I DON'T WANNA LEARN NO ARTSY-FARTSY SEWIN'!
BUT... MASTER BISHOP...! YOU JUST SAID --!

YOU GONNA BELIEVE EVERY WORD THAT SPILLS OFF'N THESE FALSIFACTIN' LIPS?
ONLIEST REASON I BROUGHT UP NEEDLEPOINTIN' AT ALL WAS T' THROW THAT GRANDSON A'MINE OFF'N THE TRACK A'WHAT I REALLY GOT IN MIND! PERT' CLEVER, EH!?
HERKLY, SIR! BUT, ER... MAY I HUMBLY INQUIRE AS TO EXACTLY WHAT IT IS THAT YOU ARE SO INGENIOUSLY PLOTTING?

I'M GOIN' PIRATIN', BOY! BACK T'THEM SAME 'LUSTROUS DAYS WHAT LURED MICKEY J. LUBUS THE FIRST!
AND YOU'RE A'COMING WITH ME!
OH, NOT AGAIN, SIR! PLEASE! I'VE JUST GOTTEN ALL THE DINGS HAMMERED OUT OF MY POOR METAL BODY FROM OUR LAST EXCURSION IN TIME!

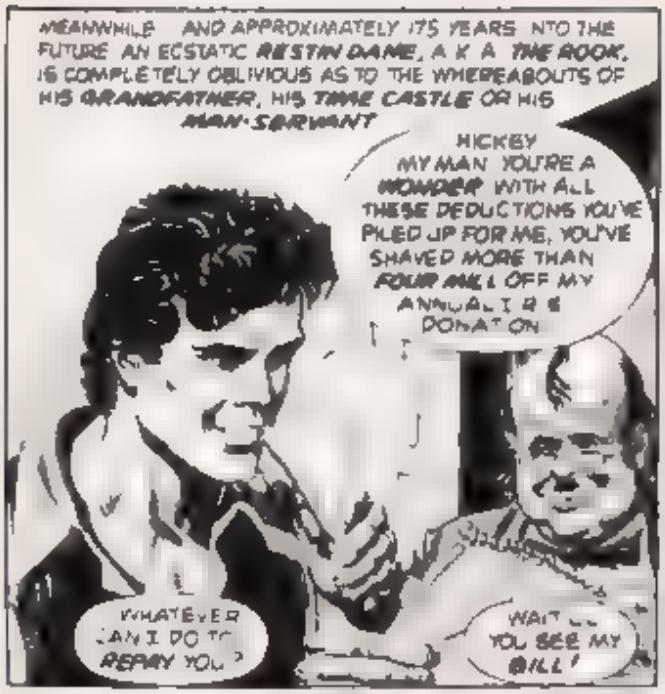
YOU'RE A'COMIN', ROBOT! THERE AIN'T NO TWO WAYS 'BOUT IT...!
IT'S NOT FAIR! IT'S JUST NOT FAIR!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE 'ROUND HERE WHAT KNOWS HOW T' DRIVE M'GRANDSON'S TIME MACHINE!

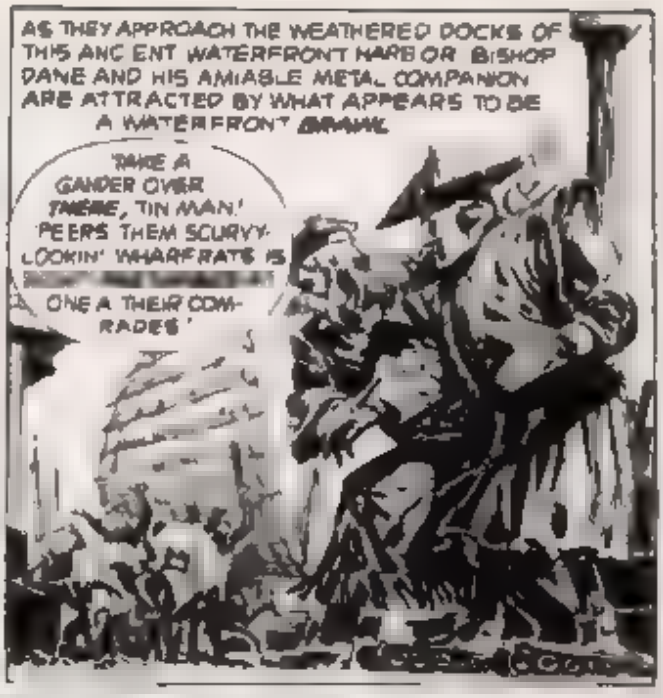

CLANG!
'SIDES... ONCE WE GIT T'THE EAST CHINA SEAS... I'M GONNA MAKE YOU WEALTHY!
JUST LIKE THAT FILTHY RICH GRANDSON A'MINE, YOU'N ME'LL HAVE INCOMES, TOO! ONLY WE WON'T HAVE T'SPLIT 'EM WITH NO MONEY-GRUBBIN' GUMMINT!

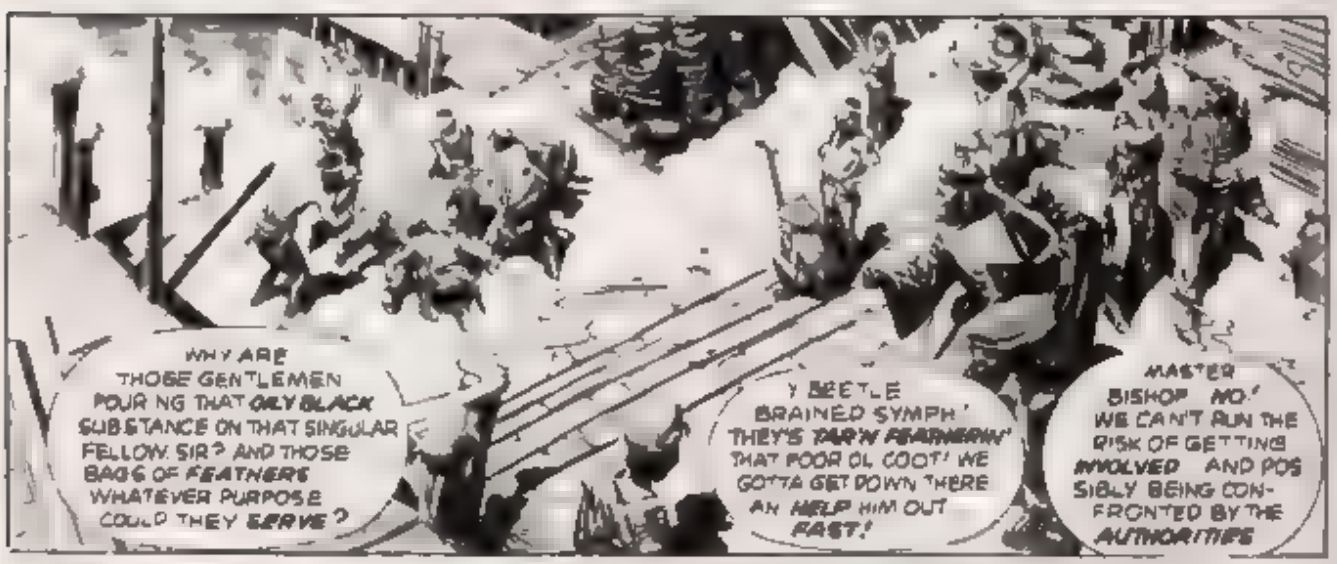

MMMMMMMMMM
OH SIR... I DO HOPE THAT THIS EXCURSION WILL BE MORE UNEVENTFUL THAN OUR PREVIOUS VENTURES!
ROUND AND ROUND THE TIME CASTLE SPINS... FASTER... FASTER. IT HUMS LOUDLY, MELODICALLY... THEN, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, IT DISAPPEARS INTO THE SHADOWS OF TIME...

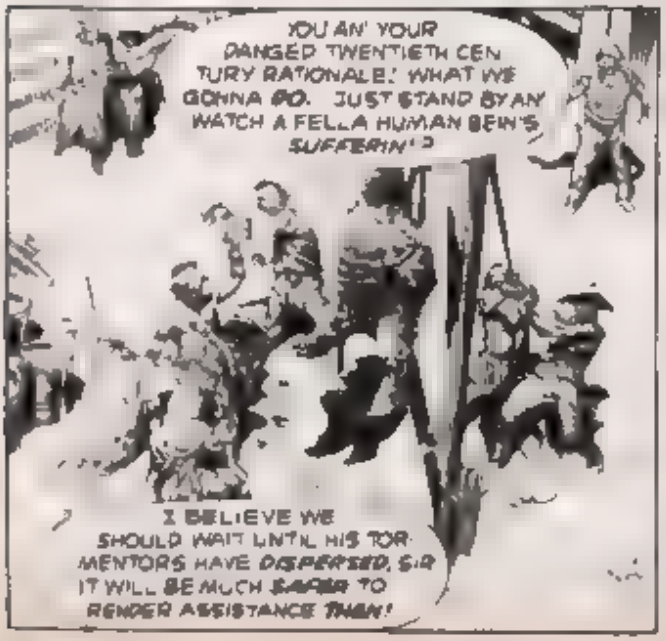
...ONLY TO REAPPEAR SHORT MOMENTS LATER...IN DANK-SMELLING PITCH BLACKNESS!
GOLDURN RUDDLE-MINDED HUMPY-FUDDLIN' SLOUNGER! Y'FINALLY DID IT! Y'KILT US BOTH! AND HERE WE ARE BUMBLIN' ABOUT IN ETERNITY!
B-BUT, MASTER BISHOP...! ACCORDING TO OUR INSTRUMENTS WE ARE IN THE HEART OF TEEMING DOWNTOWN HONG KONG...IN THE EARLIER PORTION OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY!
THIS DON'T LOOK LIKE NO CROWDED ORIENTAL SHOPPIN' CENTER T'ME!
你能上能来
AH! I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN NOW, SIR!
I BELIEVE THAT THE MASTER'S TIME VESSEL HAS EMERGED SQUARELY IN THE CENTER OF A RATHER IRATE OCCIDENTAL GENTLEMAN'S CELLAR!
SHHH! IF WE'RE REAL QUIET, MAYBE HE'LL THINK THAT WE'RE JUST A COUPLE'A RATS!
OOPS! NO SUCH LUCK, SIR! I BELIEVE THAT THE SAYING GOES..."WE'RE OUT OF THE PAN AND INTO THE FIRE!"
努力
UH OH! I KNOWD I WAS FORGETTIN' SOMETHIN'! I NO SPIKEE TH' LANGUAGE!
这是書
那是报
ER...I BELIEVE HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE, SIR.
UH...ER... LISSEN, FRIEND...! WE WAS JUST PASSIN' THROUGH! 'TAINT NO REASON T'GET ALL RILED!
PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE OVER FROM HERE, MASTER BISHOP...!
这是書嗎
GLORYOSHIE, TIN MAN! DON'T TRY T'FAKE IT! HE'S GONNA KNOW!
还是你来
还是俩来
应該
不赤
黑板
要干淨
HAHAHAHAHA!
WELL I'LL BE DIPPED IN POSSUM DRIPPINS'...IF THAT OL' METAL MANIPULATOR AIN'T GOT A WAY WITH WORDS...!

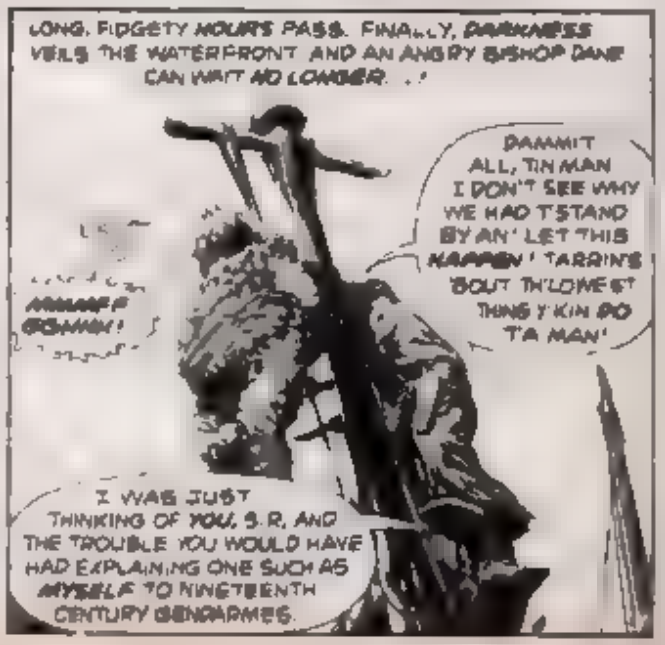
HICKEY and the PIRATES!


MEANWHILE AND APPROXIMATELY 175 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE AN ECSTATIC RESTIN DANE, A K A THE ROOK, IS COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF HIS GRANDFATHER, HIS TIME CASTLE OR HIS MAN-SERVANT
HICKEY MY MAN YOU'RE A WONDER WITH ALL THESE DEDUCTIONS YOU'VE PILED UP FOR ME, YOU'VE SHAVED MORE THAN FOUR MILL OFF MY ANNUAL I R S DONATION
WHATEVER CAN I DO TO REPAY YOU?
WAIT YOU SEE MY BILL!

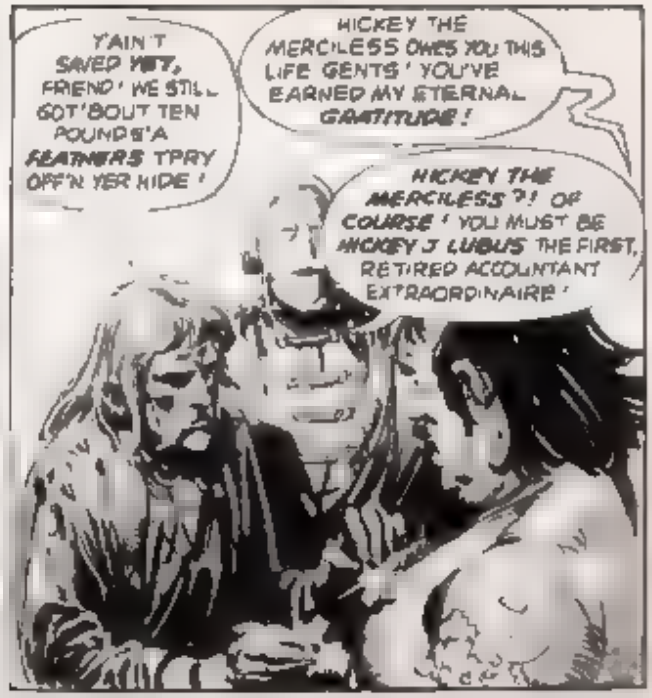

AS THEY APPROACH THE WEATHERED DOCKS OF THIS ANCIENT WATERFRONT HARBOR BISHOP DANE AND HIS AMIABLE METAL COMPANION ARE ATTRACTED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE A WATERFRONT BRAWL
TAKE A GANDER OVER THERE, TIN MAN! PEERS THEM SCURVY-LOOKIN' WHARFRATS IS ONE A THEIR COMRADES!


WHY ARE THOSE GENTLEMEN POURING THAT OILY BLACK SUBSTANCE ON THAT SINGULAR FELLOW, SIR? AND THOSE BAGS OF FEATHERS WHATEVER PURPOSE COULD THEY SERVE?
Y BEETLE BRAINED SYMPH! THEY'S TAR'N FEATHERIN' THAT POOR OL COOT! WE GOTTA GET DOWN THERE AN HELP HIM OUT FAST!
MASTER BISHOP NO! WE CAN'T RUN THE RISK OF GETTING INVOLVED AND POSSIBLY BEING CONFRONTED BY THE AUTHORITIES


YOU AN' YOUR DANGED TWENTIETH CENTURY RATIONALE! WHAT WE GONNA DO. JUST STAND BY AN WATCH A FELLA HUMAN BEIN'S SUFFERIN'?
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL HIS TORMENTORS HAVE DISPERSED, SIR IT WILL BE MUCH SAFER TO RENDER ASSISTANCE THEN!


LONG, FIDGETY HOURS PASS. FINALLY, DARKNESS VEILS THE WATERFRONT AND AN ANGRY BISHOP DANE CAN WAIT NO LONGER...
DAMMIT ALL, TIN MAN I DON'T SEE WHY WE HAD T'STAND BY AN' LET THIS HAPPEN! TARRIN'S 'BOUT TH'LONESOMEST THING Y'KIN DO T'A MAN!
I WAS JUST THINKING OF YOU, S.R. AND THE TROUBLE YOU WOULD HAVE HAD EXPLAINING ONE SUCH AS MYSELF TO NINETEENTH CENTURY GENDARMES.

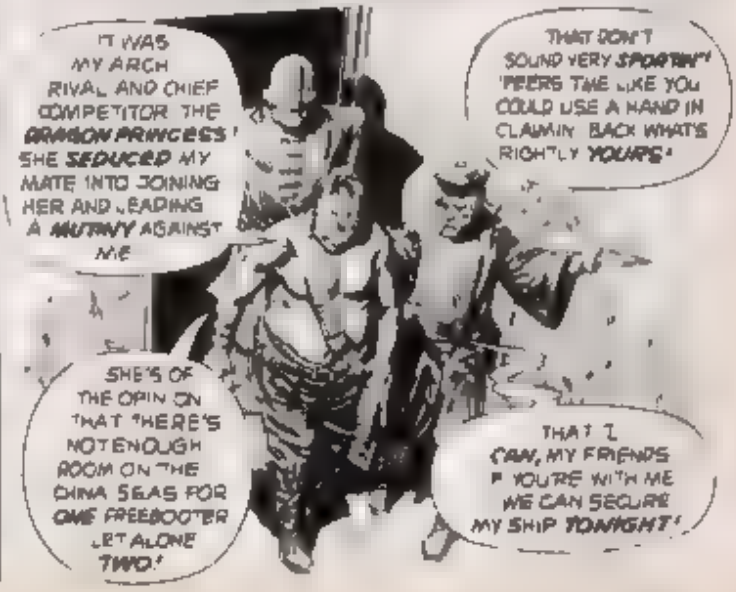
TA N'T NOTHIN' COMPARED T'THE TROUBLES THIS OL' BOY'S GOT
'SIDES LOOK N' LIKE A CONSTIPATED CHICKEN
HE'S GOT A FACE A STONE-BLIND SOW COULDN'T LOVE!
I SAY, S R! HIS FEATURES LOOK DECIDEDLY FAMILIAR!
MMMM! OOOH..! DEL VERED AT LAST . FROM THE THRESHHOLD OF DARK OBLIVION!


Y'AIN'T SAVED YET, FRIEND! WE STILL GOT 'BOUT TEN POUNDS'A FEATHERS TPRY OFF'N YER HIDE!
HICKEY THE MERCILESS OWES YOU THIS LIFE GENTS! YOU'VE EARNED MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE!
HICKEY THE MERCILESS?! OF COURSE! YOU MUST BE HICKEY J LUBUS THE FIRST, RETIRED ACCOUNTANT EXTRAORDINAIRE!

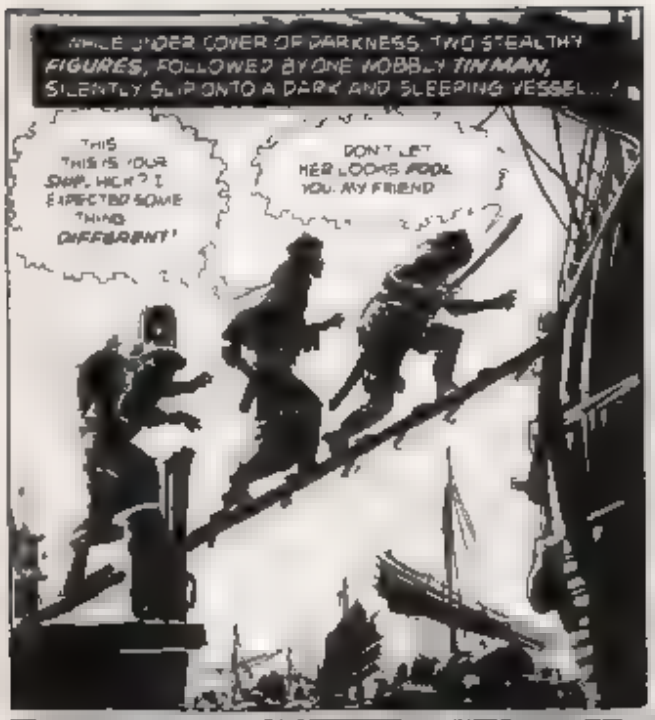
YOU'VE HEARD OF ME, EH? THE BRAVEST BOLDEST MEANEST MOST DIS NGENUOUS SCALAWAG EVER TO SAIL UNDER THE JOLLY ROGER
AND WHOM DO I HAVE THE HONOR OF ADDRESS NG?
OH MY! I DO APOLOGIZE I WAS SO ENAMORED OF MY OWN PLIGHT THAT I FAILED TO NOTICE YOUR AFFLICTION, SIR!

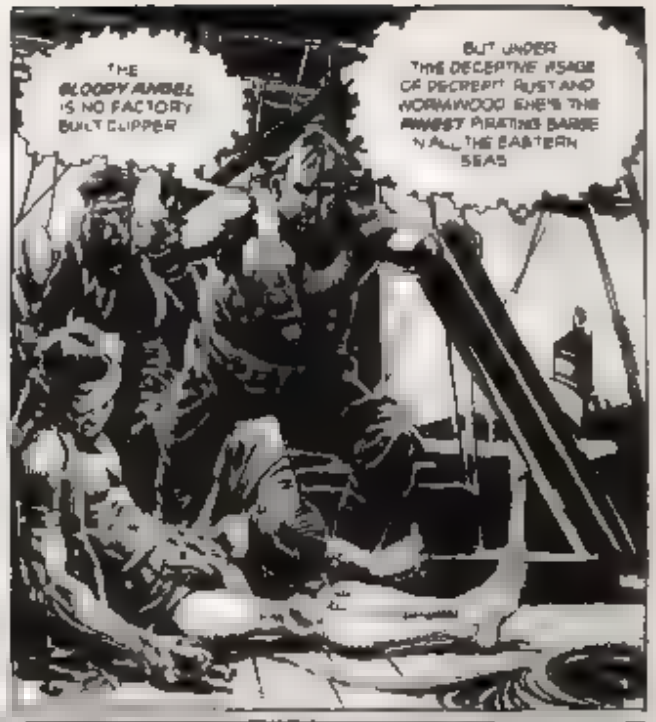
OH HIM!? DON'T LET THAT METAL SKIN PHASE Y'NONE. HICK! TH POOR BOY MERELY PICKED UP A MILD TOUCH A SOCIAL LEPROSY AT THIS QUAINT LITTLE CAR-R BEAN BORDELLO! HE'S TOO VAIN TWALK ROUND WITH HIS EYEBALLS DRIPPIN DOWN HIS FACE THOUGH SO HE WEARS THAT TIN SUIT TMAKE H SSELF LOOK PURTIER!
HE'S STILL A F RST CLASS PIRATE THOUGH MAYBE Y HEARD A HIM MANNERS TH'MAGGOTY!
PIRATES!? ARE YOU P RATES, ALSO?

TH'BOLD AT YER SERVICE MAYBE WE COULD TEAM UP FOR SOME PILLAGIN' SOMETIME!
I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER, SIR! BUT ALAS, I NO LONGER COMMAND A VESSEL NOR A CREW!
MY F RST MATE LED MY OWN MEN AGAINST ME IT WAS THEY WHO LEFT ME IN THIS DEPLORABLE CONDITION AND STRUNG ME UP FOR DEAD!
NOW WHY'D THEY WANNA GO AN' DO SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT TA SWEETHEART OF A GUY LIKE YOU?


IT WAS MY ARCH RIVAL AND CHIEF COMPETITOR THE DRAGON PRINCESS! SHE SEDUCED MY MATE INTO JOINING HER AND LEADING A MUTINY AGAINST ME
THAT DON'T SOUND VERY SPORTIN' 'PEERS THE LIKE YOU COULD USE A HAND IN CLAIMIN BACK WHAT'S RIGHTLY YOURS!
SHE'S OF THE OPIN ON THAT 'HERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM ON THE CHINA SEAS FOR ONE FREEBOOTER LET ALONE TWO!
THAT I CAN, MY FRIENDS IF YOU'RE WITH ME WE CAN SECURE MY SHIP TONIGHT!

IN ROOK MANOR, RESTIN DANE, RELIEVED OVER THE RECENT COMPLETION OF HIS TOWNHOUSE, HE STARTLED TO DISCOVER ONE OF HIS TIME VESSELS MISSING...!
I'LL BE DAMNED! HE DID IT TO ME AGAIN!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. WHEN THE OLD TURD STARTED TALKING ABOUT NEEDLEPOINT, ALL HE REALLY HAD IN MIND WAS TO TAKE ANOTHER SPIN THROUGH TIME!
1806
IF I HADN'T BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED OVER MY FINANCES HE NEVER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT!
IT DOESN'T TAKE TOO MUCH REASONING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO. 1806 HONG KONG!
THAT'S RIGHT ABOUT THE TIME MY ACCOUNTANT'S OWN GREAT GRANDFATHER WOULD HAVE BEEN SAILING THE SEAS AS A PIRATE!
AND YOU FAITHFUL "GUARDIANS" OF MY MECHANICAL TREASURES
YOU LET THE OLD RASCAL GO WITHOUT A FIGHT! I OUGHT TO DISMANTLE YOU BOTH AND MELT YOU DOWN INTO THE BOTTLECAPS FROM WHENCE YOU SPRANG!
BEEP! BEEP!
MOANNNN!
EEEEEEE!
MOAN!
EEE!
ALRIGHT. ALRIGHT! YOU'RE FORGIVEN! I KNOW THERE'S NO STOPPING THAT OLD GALLOOT ONCE HE'S SET HIS MIND ON SOMETHING
AFTER ALL THAT PAPERWORK I NEEDED A GOOD ADVENTURE ANYWAY!
MAYBE I'LL JUST SAUNTER BACK TO 1806 AND KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS
BEEEEEP!
ZEEE!
YOU TWO GUARD MY LAB. I WANT IT TO BE HERE WHEN I GET BACK!
MMMMMMMMMMMMMM!
THE TIME SHIP SPINS AROUND AND AROUND, SHIMMERING WITH THE LUMINESCENCE OF TIME ITSELF. THEN SLOWLY IT FADES FROM SIGHT AND BEGINS ITS LONG FLIGHT... INTO HISTORY...


WHILE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, TWO STEALTHY FIGURES, FOLLOWED BY ONE WOBBLY TIN MAN, SILENTLY SLIP ONTO A DARK AND SLEEPING VESSEL...!
THIS... THIS IS YOUR SHIP, HICK? I EXPECTED SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
DON'T LET HER LOOKS FOOL YOU, MY FRIEND

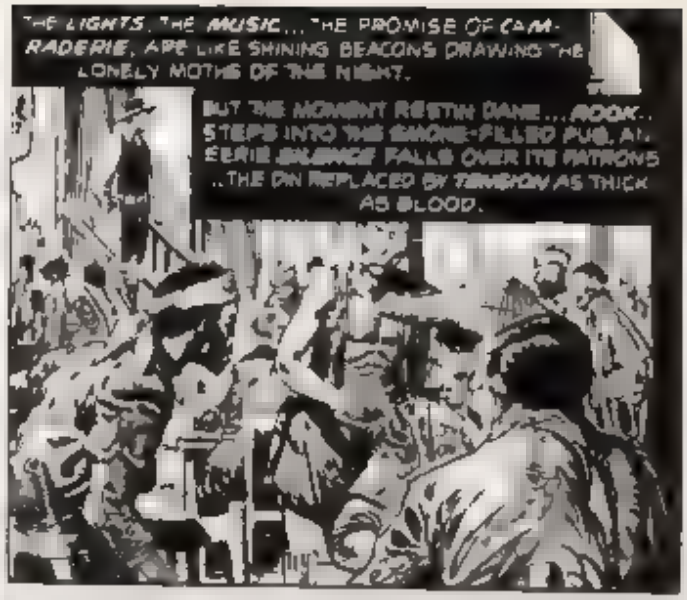

THE BLOODY ANGEL IS NO FACTORY BUILT CLIPPER
BUT UNDER THE DECEPTIVE ISAGE OF DECREPIT RUST AND WORMWOOD SHE'S THE FINEST PIRATING BARGE IN ALL THE EASTERN SEAS

AND ONCE I LOB OFF THE HEAD OF THIS THIEVING LECHER WHO SNATCHED HER FROM ME... SHE'LL BE ALL MINE ONCE AGAIN!
ZZZZZZZZZ! SNORT! EH?

你要不要
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU RUM SOAKED BACKSTABBING SANDBAGGER! IT'S ME HICKEY THE MERCILESS... COME TO SEND YOU TO A WATERY GRAVE!

BUT BEFORE I DO... WE'RE GOING TO SAIL FOR THE OPEN SEAS AND COME MORN YOU CAN TELL THE LADDIES HOW YOU FABRICATED THOSE UNKINDLY TALES ABOUT ME AND SOLD OUT TO OUR WICKED ENEMY THE DRAGON PRINCESS!
OH... AND IF YOU'VE ANY IDEAS ABOUT WAKING THE LADDIES FOR ASSISTANCE... FORGET THEM! MEET MY NEW FIRST MATE! HE'S NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT... BUT BEING HALF DEMON AND HALF MACHINE AND FORGED BY SATAN HIMSELF IN THE BLACK FIRES OF HELL... IT WOULD BE A RATHER SIMPLE MATTER FOR HIM TO RIP YOUR CONNIVING HEART CLEAN OUT OF YOUR VILE BREAST!

THE WEATHER-WORN PIERS ARE SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE SOUNDS OF ROWDY GAITY EMANATING FROM A WHARF-FRONT SAMPAN.
TO A MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, IT SEEMS LIKE AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR THE PROVERBIAL NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK THAT IS HONG KONG.


THE LIGHTS, THE MUSIC... THE PROMISE OF CAMARADERIE, ARE LIKE SHINING BEACONS DRAWING THE LONELY MOTHS OF THE NIGHT.
BUT THE MOMENT RESTIN DANE... ROOK... STEPS INTO THE SMOKE-FILLED PUB, AN EERIE SILENCE FALLS OVER ITS PATRONS ..THE DIN REPLACED BY TENSION AS THICK AS BLOOD.

你能来不能(来)?
那是报吗?
你们也会写汉字吗?
AHAH! HAS A FAMILIAR RING TO IT, DOES IT?

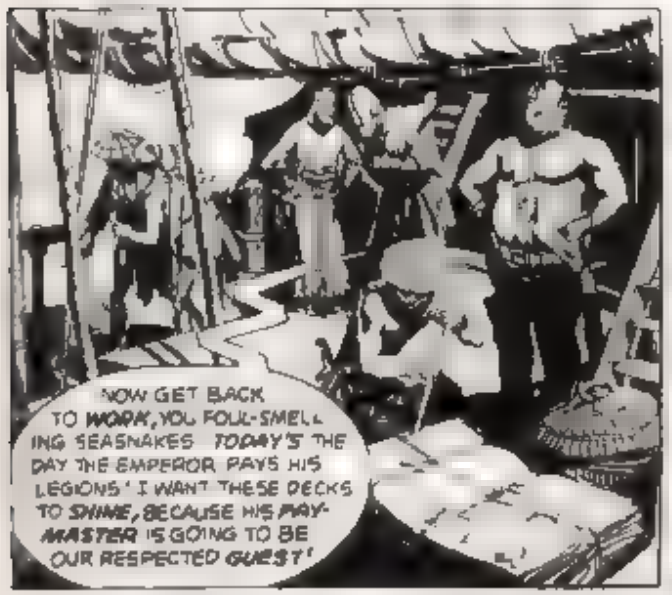
ER HI THERE!
YOU WOULDN'T BY CHANCE HAVE SEEN A BIG TIN FELLOW IN HERE, ACCOMPANIED BY A GRIZZLY-LOOKING OLD MAN?
NO!
WELL, LISTEN. DO THE NAMES BISHOP DANE OR MANNERS MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
HMM! WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THIS. WHAT ABOUT HICKEY LUBUS ..DO YOU AT LEAST KNOW HIM?

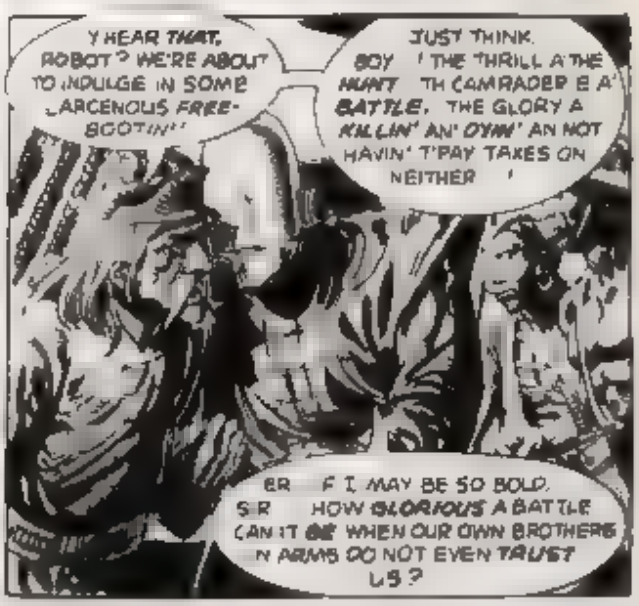
HEH HEH! I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL! I'VE NEVER MUCH CARED FOR NAME DROPPERS MYSELF!

ALL RIGHT, YOU DOG-EATING CULLION SPILL YOUR GUTS TO THE CREW TELL THEM HOW YOU AND THE DRAGON PRINCESS SCHEMED AGAINST ME!
都很

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR CONFESSIONS THAT ARE SHORT AND SWEET! NOW ARE YOU WITH ME YOU HEATHEN VERMIN OR WILL YOU JOIN THIS TRAITOR OVER THE SIDE?
努力学習

AH! HOW TOUCHING...! LOYALTY UNTO DEATH! BUT IN CASE YOU'VE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OF SKULDUGGERY, BE FOREWARNED..! I'LL LET MY NEW FIRST MATE RIP LIMB FROM BLOODY LIMB THE FIRST ONE OF YOU WHO STEPS OUT OF LINE


NOW GET BACK TO WORK, YOU FOUL-SMELLING SEASNAKES TODAY'S THE DAY THE EMPEROR PAYS HIS LEGIONS! I WANT THESE DECKS TO SHINE, BECAUSE HIS PAYMASTER IS GOING TO BE OUR RESPECTED GUEST!


Y HEAR THAT, ROBOT? WE'RE ABOUT TO INDULGE IN SOME LARCENOUS FREE-BOOTIN'!
JUST THINK, BOY! THE THRILL A' THE HUNT TH CAMRADER E A' BATTLE. THE GLORY A KILLIN' AN' DYIN' AN NOT HAVIN' T'PAY TAXES ON NEITHER!
ER F I MAY BE SO BOLD, SIR HOW GLORIOUS A BATTLE CAN IT BE WHEN OUR OWN BROTHERS IN ARMS DO NOT EVEN TRUST US?

TRUST!? WHO NEEDS TRUST, BOY AS LONG AS THEYS' SCARED SPITLESS!?
BOO!

GOOD CLEAN BONE-CRUNCH N' FEAR..! THAT'S TH BASIS FOR EVERY GOOD WORKIN' RE-LATIONSH.P!
PLEASE, LORD, DON'T LET HIS MENTAL DETE-RIORAT ON BE CONTAGIOUS!

THE ANGRY MOB PARTS SILENTLY AS IF ON CUE... AND A BEAUTIFUL ORIENTAL GIRL FLOATS TO THE CENTER OF THE CONFRONTATION. IN AN INSTANT THE MAN FROM THE FUTURE RECOGNIZES THAT THIS STRONG, SILENT WOMAN IS A FORCE WITH WHICH TO BE RECKONED!

TELL ME, MY HANDSOME FRIEND. WHY YOU HAVE TAKEN YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HANDS BY BREATHING THE HATEFUL NAME OF HICKEY THE MERCILESS IN MY FOLLOWERS PRESENCE?

YOU MUST FORGIVE THE IGNORANCE OF THIS LOWLY CLAN, OH BEAUTEOUS GODDESS OF THE ORIENT. HAD I REALIZED THAT FOUL WORDS WERE SPEWING FORTH FROM THESE LIPS, I WOULD GLADLY HAVE CUT OUT MY TONGUE BEFORE OFFENDING YOUR NOBLE AND SENSITIVE EARS.

HA HA HA! IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU ARE A MAN OF BREEDING AND TASTE, WITH AN OVERABUNDANCE OF COURAGE AS WELL...

YOU WANT TO ENGAGE HIM IN ER PARTNERSHIP IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!?

IT IS SO! INSTEAD HE PREFERS THE ADULATION OF THE MASSES. UPON CONCLUDING EACH OF HIS CONQUESTS, HE RETURNS TO DISTRIBUTE HIS WEALTH AMONG THE PEOPLE FREELY.

HE HAS A PROFOUND TALENT FOR BRIGANDRY BUT AS A BUSINESSMAN HE HAS THE SENSE OF A MONGOLIAN WARTWORM!

I SEE. SO HE'S A SORT OF ROBIN HOOD... FEARED BY THE POTENTATES, REVERED BY THE PROLETARIAT

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW I MIGHT FIND THIS LIVING LEGEND, WOULD YOU? I SUSPECT THAT TWO DEAR FRIENDS MAY BE HELPLESSLY WITHIN HIS

THE DRAGON PRINCESS ACCEPTS YOUR HUMBLE APOLOGY AND WELCOMES YOU AS HER FRIEND

MAY I ASK, YOUR HIGHNESS WHY IS IT THAT YOU DESPISE THIS HICK--! I MEAN... THIS HATEFUL INFIDEL, SO?

HICKEY THE MERCILESS IS A LARCENER AND A DECEIVER! I HAVE OFFERED HIM MY LOVE AND MY LEGIONS YET HE HAS TRIFLED WITH MY AFFECTIONS AND SPURNED MY ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERTISE!

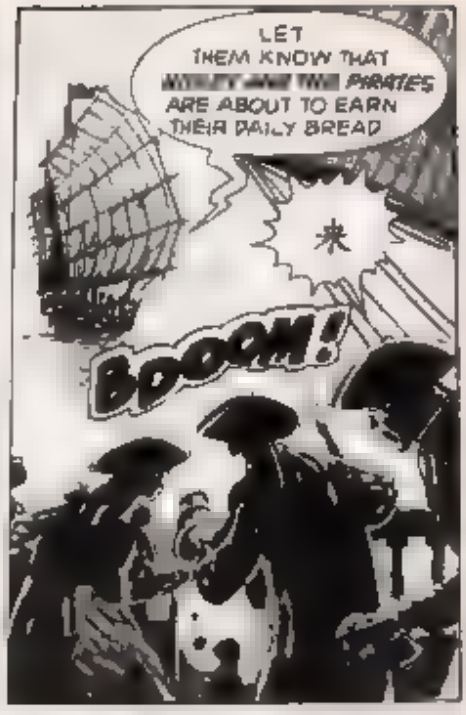
I AM TOLD THAT HIS SHIP SAILED IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT

THIS BEING THE DAY OF PAYMENT FOR THE EMPEROR'S LEGIONS, THERE IS BUT ONE PLACE HICKEY AND HIS BAND CAN BE

SINCE I AM GOING THAT WAY MYSELF, I SEE NO REASON FOR YOU NOT TO ACCOMPANY ME!

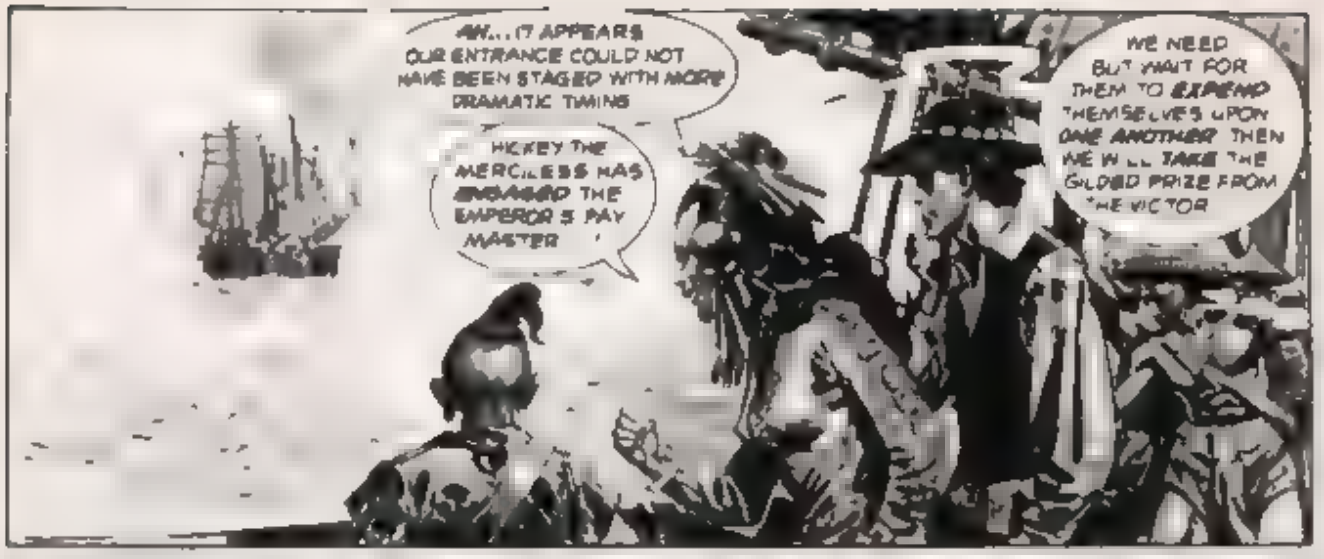
THERE SHE IS, MATEYS! THE GOLD-LADEN QUEEN OF HIS MAJESTY'S FLEET!

RUN UP THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES, LAPDOG.


LET THEM KNOW THAT [illegible] PIRATES ARE ABOUT TO EARN THEIR DAILY BREAD
BOOOM!

HA HA! THAT'S OUR CUE, LADS.!
ONCE THEY SEE THE JOLLY ROGER, IT'S ALWAYS THEY WHO OPEN FIRE FIRST!
BWAAD!

WE ARE BUT HUMBLE GENTLEMEN SAILORS DEFENDING OURSELVES AGAINST THE EMPEROR'S WARLIKE MERCENARIES!
I SAY WHAT A PROFOUND LINE OF REASONING
HOT DAMN! BLOOD AND GORE! NOW THIS IS MY IDEA OF FUN!


AH... IT APPEARS OUR ENTRANCE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN STAGED WITH MORE DRAMATIC TIMING
HICKEY THE MERCILESS HAS ENGAGED THE EMPEROR'S PAY MASTER
WE NEED BUT WAIT FOR THEM TO EXPEND THEMSELVES UPON ONE ANOTHER THEN WE WILL TAKE THE GILDED PRIZE FROM THE VICTOR

AVAST, YE ORIENTAL SCUM AND LAY FORTH YOUR COVETED BULLION!
THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE PAYIN MUCH ATTENTION TO A HICK
我們

MAYBE WE SHOULD GET US OVER THERE AND KICK A FEW BOODIES
MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY BISHOP

I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THIS SIRS! I AM USUALLY NOT SUCH AN INCORRIGIBLE RUFFIAN
能說

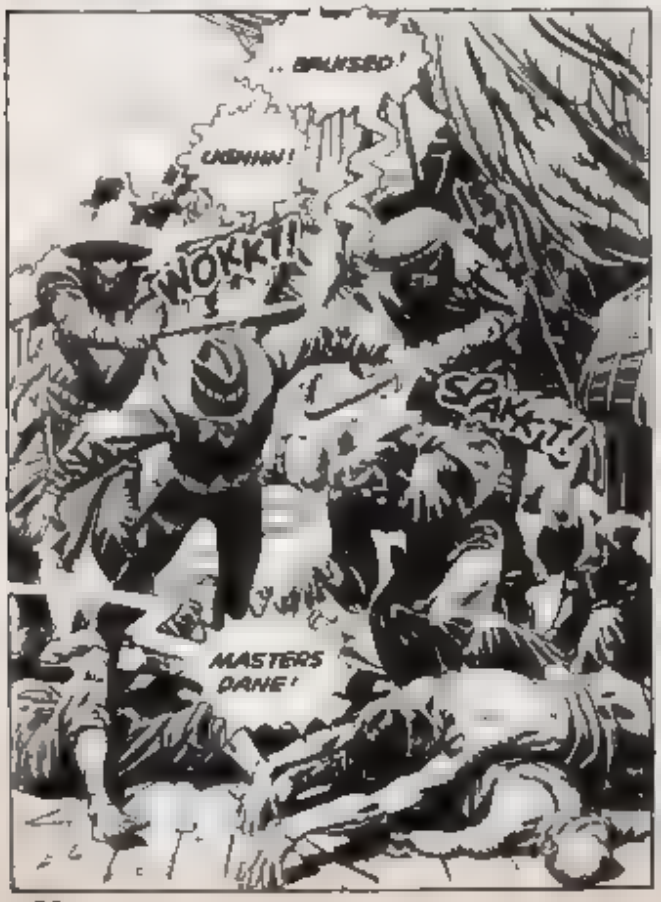
AVAST AND BELAY AND ALL THAT PIRATE JABBER! THERE'S A SHIP COMIN DOWN ON US AND IT DON'T LOOK NONE TOO FRIENDLY!
IS THE DRAGON PRINCESS'S WAR BARGE! SHE'S COME TO MAKE OFF WITH OUR BOUNTY!

IN THAT CASE LET'S GIVE HER WHA' FO, HICK MAMAN NO HONEST PIRATE KIN HAVE HIS HARD-EARNED TREASURE SNITCHED AWAY BY A FANCY PANCED LADY!
I CONCUR, SIR WHY DON'T YOU AMBLE ON OVER TO HER VESSEL AND SKEWER THE PURSE PICKING TROLLOP UPON THE BLADE OF YOUR CUTLASS?
ME!? WHY DON'T YOU SKEWER HER YOURSELF BELLED DEBAUCHER SHE'S YOUR ARCH ENEMY!
TRUE! BUT SHE'S SUCH A PETITE LITTLE STRUMPET AND OBTUSE WHALE THAT I AM HARDLY SEEMS SPORTING AND ALL
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER HICKEY, I'D BEGIN TO THINK THAT YOU WAS IN LOVE WITH THAT GIRL!

BITE YOUR TONGUE SIR! NO SELF-RESPECTING PIRATE EVER FALLS IN LOOK! LOVE!
OOPS SORRY! I FERGOT!
GRANDKATHER!

WHO YOU CALL N' A GRANDFATHER Y FRISKY, BACKBITIN THIMBLERIGG...?
GAAA!
RESTIN BOY!
TARNATION, SON WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME IT WAS YOU? Y ALMOST GOT YERSELF MAIMED FER LIFE!

I HAD TO COME AFTER YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE ALL RIGHT, YOU OLD BRAWLER!
AW SHUCKS, BOY! AH KNOWS Y'LOVE ME AN' ALL - BUT THIS IS HARDLY TH'PLACE T'BE CLOSE DANCIN'!
IF WE DON'T WATCH OURSELVES IN THIS RUCKUS, WE'RE GONE GET


.. BRUISED!
UGHHH!
WOKK!!
SPAKKT!
MASTERS DANE!

WHAT A VULGAR, CONTEMPTIBLE DESPICABLE AND DISCOURTEOUS THING TO DO. WAYLAYING TWO SUCH FASTIDIOUSLY MAGNANIMOUS GENTLEMEN FROM BEHIND ! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
GNKK!
SKAGG!

DISEMBODIED VOICES SEEM FAR OFF IN THE DISTANT BACKGROUND.... SLOWLY, THE CLAMOR GROWS LOUDER, AND A GROGGY OLD MAN CLUTCHES FOR HIS ACHING HEAD, OPENING HIS EYES AFTER HOURS OF BEING UNCONSCIOUS.

UGHHH! YOU WITH THE TRIPHAMMER, QUIT BEAT N' ON M HEAD OR YER A DEAD MAN!

BISHOP DANE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE IS. HE KNOWS ONLY THAT THE BATTLE IS FAR BEHIND HIM. SUDDENLY, REMEMBERING HIS GRANDSON, HE WHIRLS, SEARCHING FOR THE YOUTH IN THE DARKNESS, PRAYING THAT HE IS ALIVE.

THERE IS A FLEETING MOAN, THEN MOVEMENT ON A NEARBY BUNK. RES-TIN. [illegible] AT FEELS LIKE MUSH.

OHHH! W-WHERE ARE WE GRAND-FATHER?

I DON'T KNOW, BOY! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE N SOME KIND A PRISON!

Y' THINK MAYBE WE LOST TH' WAR AND THEY SENT US UP TH' RIVER A PIRATIN'?

I DON'T THINK SO. PRISON DOORS AREN'T USUALLY LEFT UNLOCKED. BESIDES, THIS FEELS MORE LIKE THE HOLD OF A SHIP THAN A LANDLOCKED JAIL!

你們常常

SHHHH! HEAR THAT, GRANDFATHER? IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A MOB OUTSIDE!

WELL IF WE GOTTA BATTLE OUR WAY THROUGH A MOB TO GET OUTTA HERE, WE'D BETTER GET STARTED NOW!

練習定

不好看

LOOK, GRANDFATHER IT'S NOT A MOB.

BUT THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF HONG KONG! AND THEY'RE CELEBRATING!

JUST WHAT I NEED A BUNCH A LOUDMOUTHED PARTY-GOERS MAKIN MACKIN HEAD WORSE N ALREADY IS!

MASTER RESTIN, MASTER BISHOP!
MY FRIENDS YOU'VE FINALLY AWAKENED!
MANNERS!
HICKEY!
WILL SOMEBODY TELL ME WHAT'S GOIN ON ROUND HERE? WHAT'S ALL THIS HULL'BALOO ABOUT? AN' WHAT'S THAT TIN MISCREANT DOIN DRESSED UP LIKE BOZO TH'CLOWN?

HA HA HA! WHY, MANNERS THE MAGGOTY IS MY BEST MAN SIR AND ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE HONORED GUESTS OF MY WEDDING PARTY!
INDEED, MY FRIEND! FOLLOWING OUR MUTUAL DEFEAT OF THE EMPEROR'S FORCES, HICKEY THE MERC LESS FINALLY REALIZED THE INDISPUTABLE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM OUR UNION!
WEDDING? DON'T TELL ME.

WELL, CONGRATULATIONS, PRINCESS, YOU'VE FINALLY GOTTEN WHAT YOU'VE WANTED.
NOT, ENTIRELY, MY HANDSOME FRIEND. MY NEW HUSBAND IS AN EXCELLENT PRIVATEER, AS I MENTIONED..

BUT HE'S STILL A LOUSY BUSINESSMAN!
COME COME NOW DEAR! THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM
AFTER ALL WE MUSTN'T ALLOW OUR GUESTS TO LEAVE WITHOUT SOME SORT OF WEDDING PRESENT!

WHAT A WAY TIND AN ADVENTURE, EH, BOY!? WITH EVER'BODY LIVIN HAPPILY EVER AFTER
NOT QUITE EVERYBODY, GRANDFATHER: I KNOW AT LEAST ONE EMPEROR WHO'S READY TO BIRTH A BRICK!
AND DON'T FORGET A POOR LITTLE ACCOUNTANT IN OUR TIME, WHO, IF NOT FOR THE FLAGRANT GENEROSITY OF HIS ANCESTOR WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN OF OUR DAY!

END

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

THE PARTY

10 P.M., AUGUST 15, 1978, THE PALM RESTAURANT, NEW YORK. Gwen Kestel is much too pretty and simply too talented to worry about anything, but tonight she leads the league in tense. She interprets each bit of innocuous dinner conversation as criticism. She adores lobster but tonight can even she eat her own. She stares at the wall, but actually she is [illegible] the huge water colors Dawn on them by some of the 20th Century's greatest artists. Her long, well manicured fingernails seem to have found a permanent home in the skin of my forearm.

Joe, she says, he's been [illegible] large sips of Grand Marnier. You don't understand how crazy it has been the last few weeks. My nerves are on the line. That party's costing us so much, and what if those books don't sell? We're so far out on a limb. What happens if everything bombs?

Gwen Kestel, who used to be the best housewares reporter in the world, is five weeks into her job as national accounts sales manager of the Burwood Products Company. Her first assignment: promoting five New Haven brand Super Chucks at a party [illegible] evening at New York's ultra-chic Studio 54 discotheque. Her career, she fears, rides on her ability to promote these specialized clocks featuring Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man and The Hulk.

Let me tell you, says her boss, Burwood executive vice president Peter Faust. Gwen's really been up against it. We've all been up against it. Every time the comic people get involved with the design of the clocks, we have to spend days correcting their mistakes. Our standards are so much higher than theirs.

Welcome to comic books, Gwen Kestel.

2 A.M., AUGUST 16, THE AMBASSADOR GRILL, UNITED NATIONS HOTEL

Don't tell me if you don't like the script, Gwen Kestel says before draining her Grand Marnier. I never wrote a play before. I never directed a play before. Don't tell me if you don't like it, she says again.

The script is the flash-in show. Burwood is presenting at the Studio 54 party, which is now only 6 hours away. The 20-inch by 30-inch superhero clocks will be presented as fashions, and Kestel has carefully choreographed each move. The script is 20 pages long, has an interminable number of stage directions and has never been rehearsed. A dozen dancers [illegible] a kid dressed Annie dress and wig, a slide show, numerous sound and special effects are all scheduled to come together at a cue from Kestel's second minute, one-time only performance on the Studio 54 dance floor.

Kestel and Faust read the play. The idea is to give each character and each clock its moment in the spotlight. The fashion show structure will hopefully keep 300 disorganized press people interested in the Super Chucks. There's no Annie clock in the Burwood line, which will retail between $70 and $75, but Kestel wrote the character in because "everyone loves a cute kid."

Gosh, she says, you know we only have three hours to put everything together. I know it's going to be terrible. You have to clap for me, she pleads with me and Fred Abatemarco, an editorial **Newsweek**. Clap, Fred. Clap long. Clap whether you like it or not. You know the press never claps at these things.

7:10 P.M., AUGUST 16, STUDIO 54

The Super Chucks fashion show finally starts on the cavernous, surprisingly upbeat, pleasantly lighted dance floor of the stars. It's plagued by the dance hall's inability to produce the special effects. The sound is awful. The dance models who look stunning aren't very good. The model wearing the Wonder Woman clock is tall, slim, skinny and hardly the Amazon from Paradise Island type. The model wearing The Hulk clock looks more like Bruce Banner than a green rampaging beast.

But Gwen Kestel gets a break. Since the eighty produced prototypes she envisioned as a technical shambles, the audience is confused. The press is forced to focus on the clocks themselves. They like them. They seem, to the press, well-made, exciting and something worth writing about. The Superman model enters from above on a hidden trapeze. Handel's Hallelujah Chorus plays in the background. If the press hasn't realized by now that the Super Chucks are tied to the upcoming **Superman** movie, they've just learned it in a very spectacular way.

Abatemarco and I clap. A lot. Everyone else looks at us funny. The press never claps at things like this.

7:30 P.M., AUGUST 16, STUDIO 54

"You did good," I say to Gwen Kestel. She grabs my arm, hugs me and then a torrent of words comes out. "You didn't tell me about New York dancers. There was a girl here who just didn't know what to do. And the DJ just didn't show up. We called him six times today. He just took the phone off the hook. Can somebody get me a glass of white wine? They say he's too good to fire. The rehearsal was a disaster."

While Kestel is going on and on, people drift by to congratulate her. Everyone is having fun, except for Sue Harrison. The DC president and resident diva spends the evening in the back of the disco, looking cold and out of place. He's cool and discourteous to everyone. He complains about [illegible] mangling Marvel and DC characters. He leaves early. No one cares.

11:45 P.M., AUGUST 16, BARBETTA'S RESTAURANT

Pete Faust is throwing a "survival" dinner party for 12 and ordering champagne for everyone. Gwen Kestel is talking about going home to Chicago tomorrow night. "I can't believe," she says with the nervous laugh she has managed in days, "that we actually survived these last crazy weeks without going crazy."

Welcome to comic books, Gwen Kestel.

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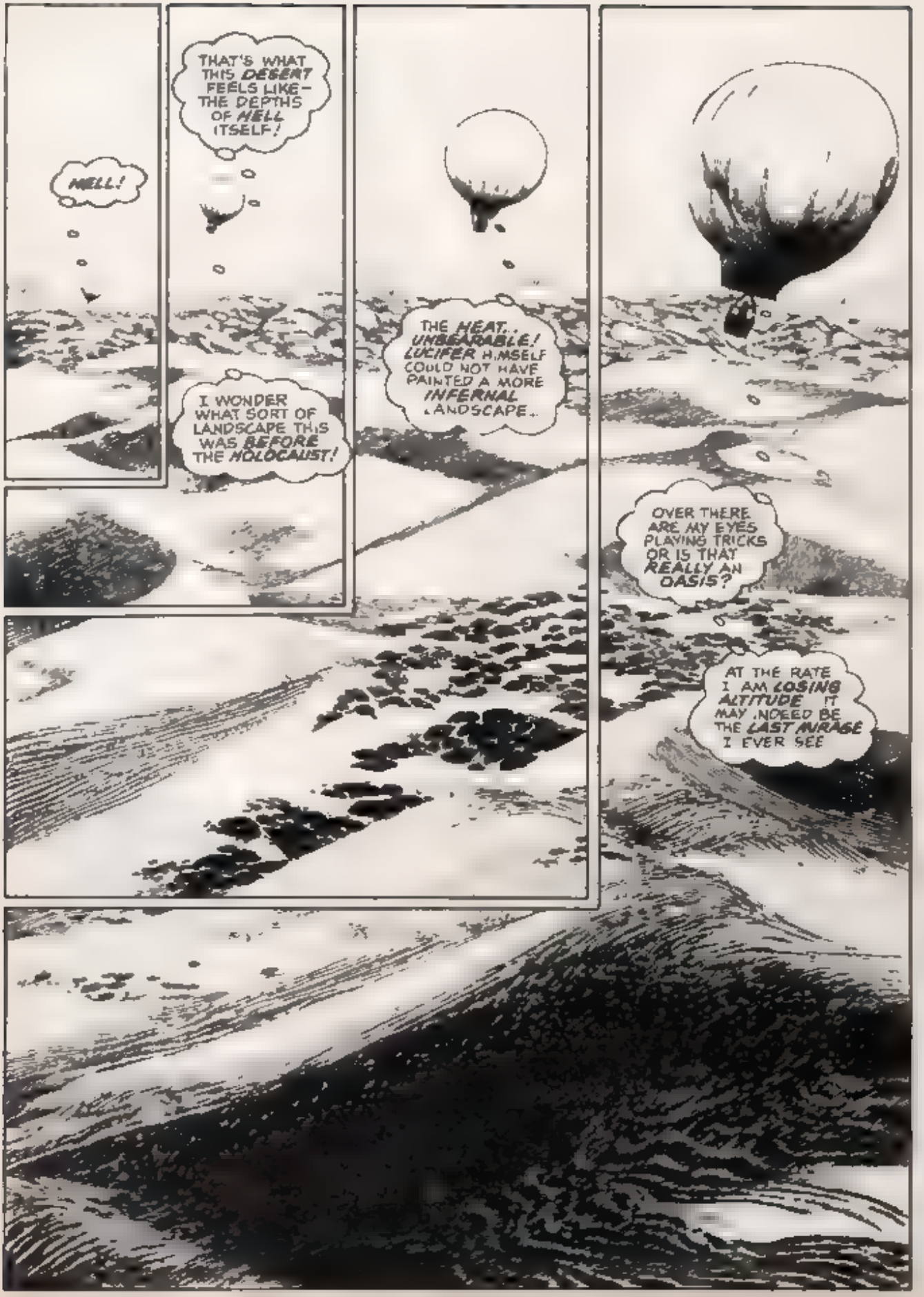
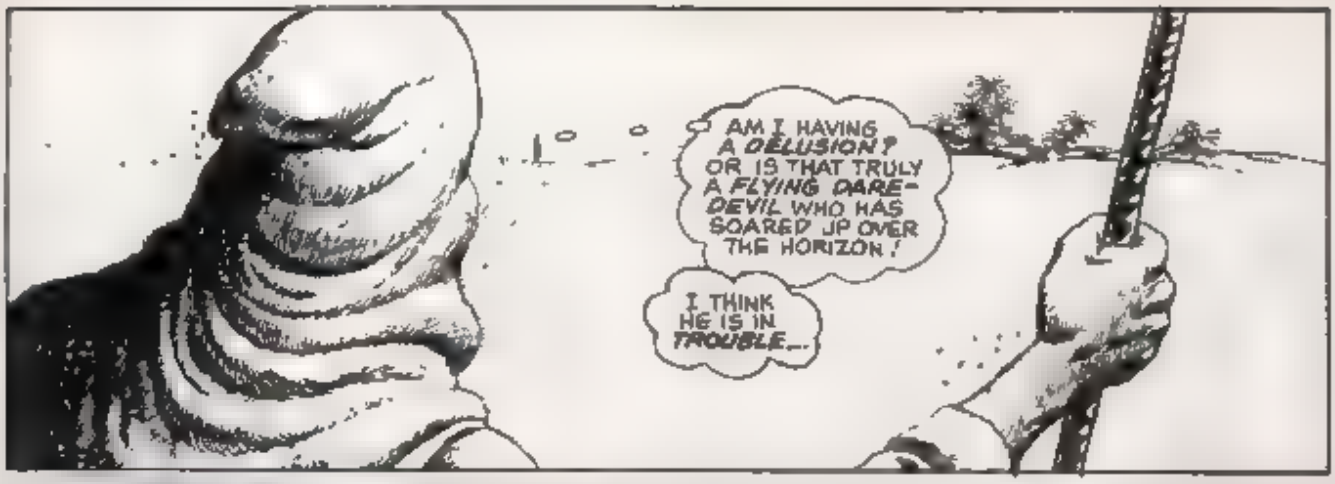
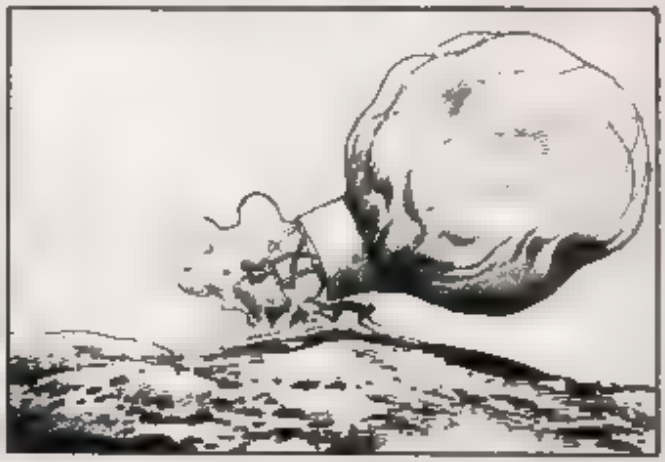

HELL!
THAT'S WHAT THIS DESERT FEELS LIKE— THE DEPTHS OF HELL ITSELF!
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF LANDSCAPE THIS WAS BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST!
THE HEAT... UNBEARABLE! LUCIFER HIMSELF COULD NOT HAVE PAINTED A MORE INFERNAL LANDSCAPE...
OVER THERE ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS OR IS THAT REALLY AN OASIS?
AT THE RATE I AM LOSING ALTITUDE IT MAY INDEED BE THE LAST MIRAGE I EVER SEE


AM I HAVING A DELUSION? OR IS THAT TRULY A FLYING DARE-DEVIL WHO HAS SOARED UP OVER THE HORIZON!
I THINK HE IS IN TROUBLE...

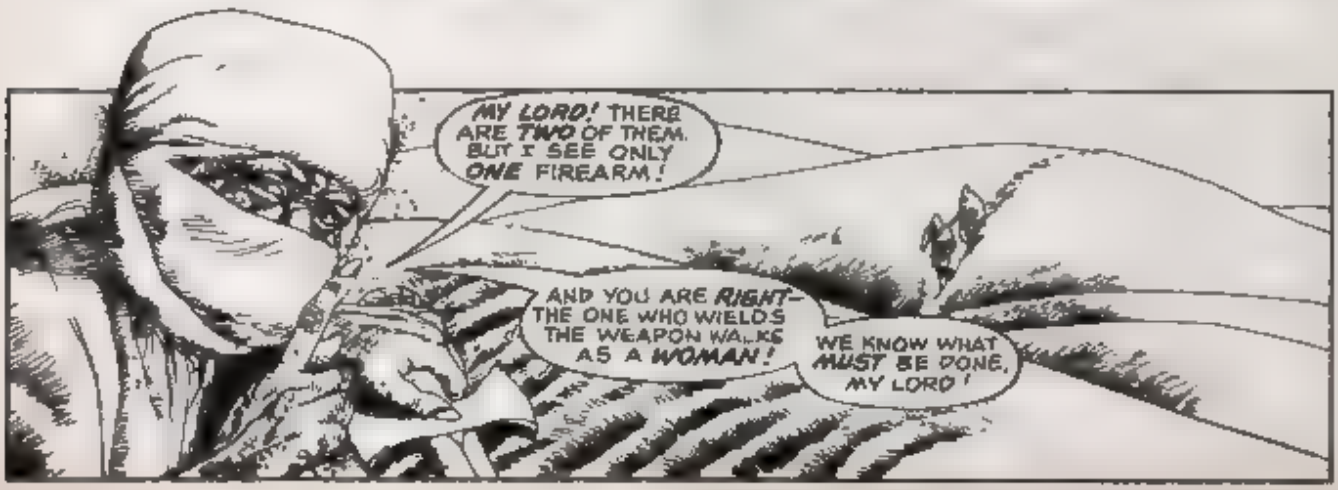
HE IS GOING DOWN!



A BALLOONIST!
I REMEMBER NOW.. THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO CALL MEN WHO NAVIGATED SUCH HOT-AIR DEVICES!
IT APPEARS THIS ADVENTURER HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE HIS FORCED LANDING!

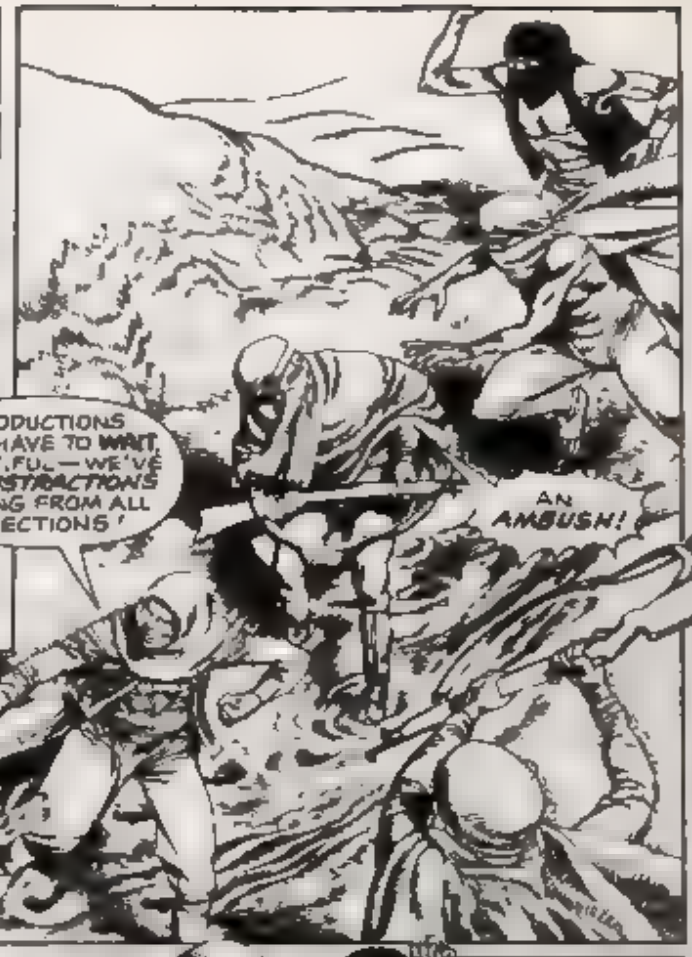
THEY CAME FROM DIFFERENT ENDS OF THE EARTH...THE EARTH AS IT WAS BEFORE THE FINAL FALL OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT! PROVIDED WITH ONLY FAR-FLUNG FRAGMENTS OF THE PAST...AND DEPRIVED OF ANY INKLING OF WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD FOR THEM... ALL THEY CAN DO IS LOOK AHEAD—FOR NOW THEY ARE...

The Horizon Seekers



SCRIPT-LEO DURANONA & CARY BATES/ART-LEO DURANONA

I WILL NOT EVEN ASK YOU WHERE YOU ARE TAKING ME... IF YOU ONLY TELL ME YOUR NAME!
JUST KEEP WALKING, MALE! AS FOR MY NAME—


INTRODUCTIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT, BEAUT.FUL—WE'VE GOT DISTRACTIONS COMING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS!
AN AMBUSH!

YOU KNOW THESE GOONS?
UHHH!
KRAK!
THEY ARE THE SHEKA'S MEN I RECOGNIZE THE STENCH!

ONCE THE TWO PRISONERS ARE SECURELY HELPLESS, ALL EYES LOOK TO A VOICE OF COMMAND...
KILL THE MALE! AND YOU KNOW WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH THE FEMALE!
YES MY LORD! WE W LL CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES!

KILL THE WOMAN TOO MARDO! LOOK AT HER—SHE IS JUST A COMMON—
SILENCE LYLAL! I W LL FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT SHE IS.. AND NO DOUBT ENJOY MYSELF IN THE PROCESS! AS I ALWAYS DO!

SEVERAL MOMENTS PASS. AN ***ARMED GUARD*** HAS ESCORTED THE DOOMED ***MALE PRISONER*** OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND A SWEEPING ***SAND DUNE*** — AND ONLY ***ONE FIGURE RETURNS***

THE VERMIN IS ***DEAD***, MY ***LORD***! I FORCED HIM TO ***CHOKE*** ON THE SAND AT HIS FEET!

GO BACK AND ***BURY*** HIM, GUARD —

— I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO ***REMIND*** YOU OF THE STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH ***STRAY WANDERERS***!

MY APOLOGIES, MY LORD.

I WILL NOT ***DISAPPOINT*** YOU AGAIN!

SO! COULD IT BE THAT BOTH ***I*** AND THE ***SHEKA*** HAVE GROSSLY ***UNDERESTIMATED*** MY CAPTIVE ***BALLOONIST***?

THE ***FEMALE*** IS TIED AND READY FOR TRANSPORT, MY LORD!

VERY WELL. THEN LET US PROCEED TO THE ***FORTRESS***!

THE ***CARAVAN*** PULLS OUT TOWARD THE SHIMMERING HORIZON — BUT NOT ONE OF THE CUTTHROAT GUARDS REALIZES HIS REVERED ***SHEKA*** IS NO MORE THAN A FINGER TWITCH AWAY FROM A DEADLY ***RIFLE BULLET***

AS A CERTAIN DETERMINED ***BALLOONIST*** TAKES AIM WITH HIS WOULD-BE EXECUTIONER'S WEAPON

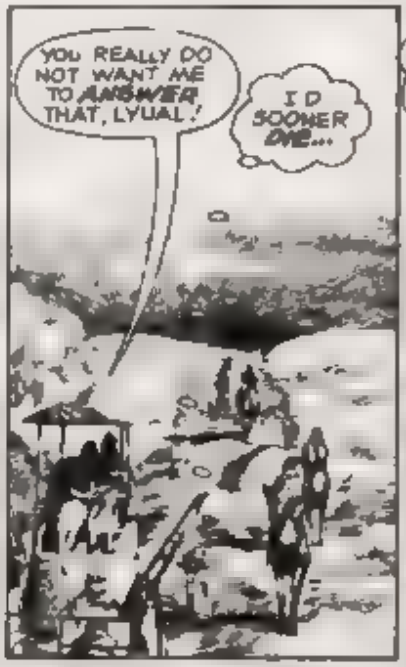
I NEARLY ***GAVE MYSELF AWAY*** BY NEGLECTING TO ***BURY*** THAT GOON AS SOON AS ***I EXCHANGED OUTFITS*** WITH HIM!

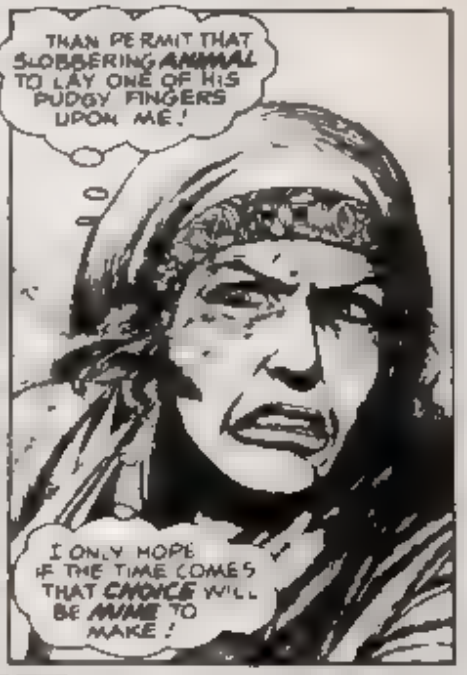
I ***COULD*** KILL THAT GOGGLE WEARING FIEND RIGHT ***HERE*** AND ***NOW***...

BUT IF ***I DID***... WOULD I EVER SEE THAT ***FASCINATING FEMALE*** AGAIN?

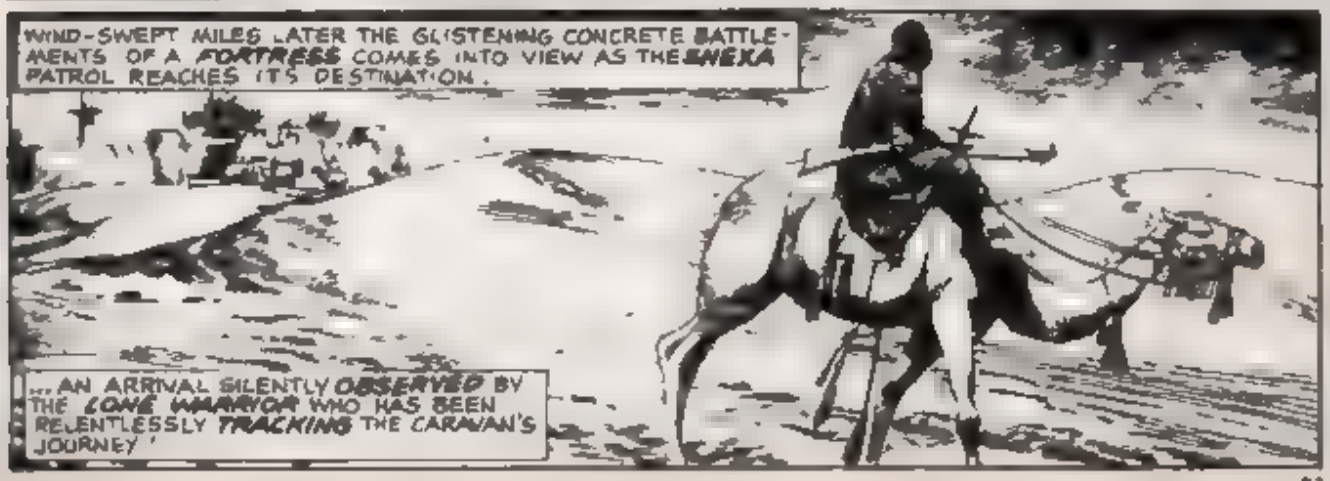
-PANT- PLEASE... I NEED A REST, SOME WATER!
KEEP HER MOVING! SHE DOES NOT REST UNTIL WE REACH THE FORTRESS!

THINK THROUGH, MARDI WHAT CAN THESE OTHER WOMEN GIVE YOU THAT I CANNOT?


YOU REALLY DO NOT WANT ME TO ANSWER THAT, LYUAL!
I'D SOONER DIE...


THAN PERMIT THAT SLOBBERING ANIMAL TO LAY ONE OF HIS PUDGY FINGERS UPON ME!
I ONLY HOPE IF THE TIME COMES THAT CHOICE WILL BE MINE TO MAKE!

ACROSS THE VAST WHITE WASTES THE CARAVAN TRUDGES ON - WITH THE MOTOR ZED SNEX-MOBILE IN THE LEAD.


WIND-SWEPT MILES LATER THE GLISTENING CONCRETE BATTLEMENTS OF A FORTRESS COMES INTO VIEW AS THE SNEXA PATROL REACHES ITS DESTINATION.
...AN ARRIVAL SILENTLY OBSERVED BY THE LONE WARRIOR WHO HAS BEEN RELENTLESSLY TRACKING THE CARAVAN'S JOURNEY!

AHHH! IT IS GOOD TO BE [redacted] AGAIN, IS IT NOT, LYUAL?

INDEED, MARDU! I SUGGEST WE PROCEED *DIRECTLY* TO YOUR PRIVATE QUARTERS! I *HUNGER* FOR YOUR—

BE STILL, WOMAN! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR *APPETITES!*

AND MAINTAINING HIS VIGIL FROM A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY...

I THINK I HAVE SEEN *ENOUGH!* IT IS TIME FOR ME TO *GO!*

I HAVE MUCH TO DO BEFORE I CAN *RETURN...*

...TONIGHT!

SO, MY PRETTY! FOR SPARING YOUR *LIFE* I EXPECT YOU TO PROVIDE US WITH MANY HOURS OF *PLEASURE!*

TRUE, YOU HAVE ONLY *HATE* FOR ME NOW. BUT THAT WILL *CHANGE!* I *PROMISE!*

HOSE HER DOWN... SCRUB HER THOROUGHLY AND THEN *SECURE* HER IN MY AUXILLARY QUARTERS!

SOON YOU WILL BE *BEGGING* FOR MY NIGHTLY FAVORS, WOMAN!

LATE THAT NIGHT—A FAMILIAR HOT-AIR DEVICE SILENTLY DRIFTS OVER MILE AFTER MILE OF MOONLIT SAND...

FINALLY DESCENDING ITS DANGER-FRAUGHT DESTINATION...

CLANG

I MUST WORK FAST!
IF I STOP AND THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING I COULD WELL LOSE MY NERVE!

A WATCHFUL GUARD ON DUTY... JUST WAITING FOR AN INTRUDER LIKE ME TO RUN THROUGH...

OR AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ME BELIEVE!

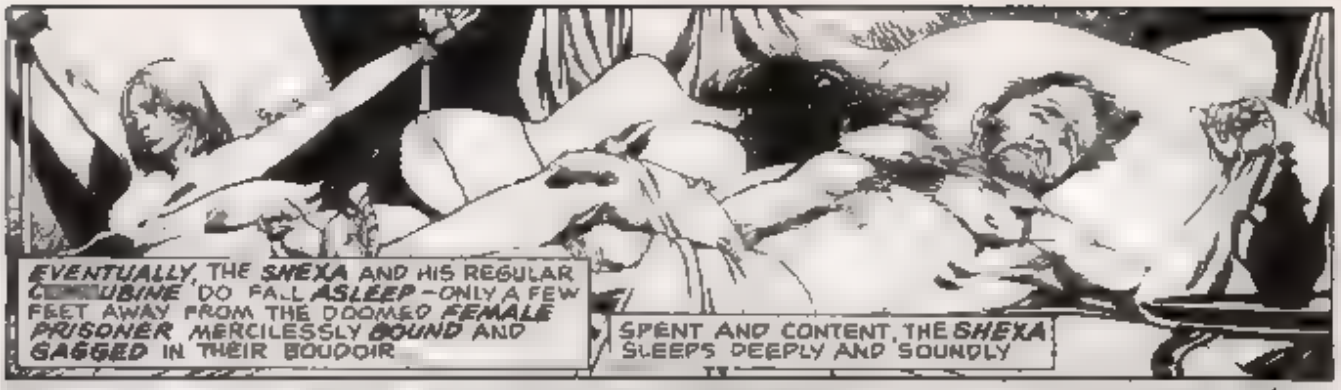
YOU
A MOST IMPRESSIVE THRUST YOUNG MAN I CONFESS I DID NOT EXPECT ANY OF OUR STRAW SENTENILS TO DEFEAT YOU FOR LONG.

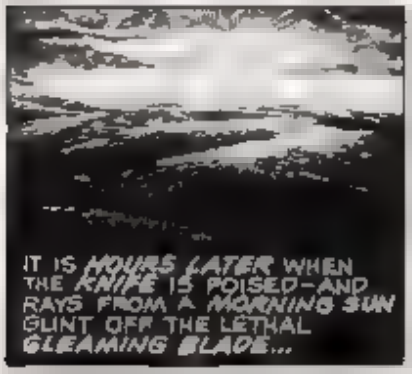
YOU SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN A MOONLESS NIGHT FOR YOUR AIR-ASSAULT FOOL WE SPOTTED YOUR BALLOON MILES AWAY OVER THE HORIZON!
YOU ARE A DEVIOUS SHEXA.
A TRAP! YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR ME!

INDEED I AM— BUT BY FAR MY MOST ENDEARING QUALITY IS ABSOLUTE RUTHLESSNESS— AS YOU

AND THIS FEMALE YOU FOOLISHLY RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!
I HAVE SUDDENLY LOST MY APPETITE FOR YOU, MY DEAR! I SHALL RETIRE EARLY TONIGHT...

...SO I CAN WATCH YOU AND YOUR WOULD-BE SAVIOR SLOWLY HANG AT DAWN!
YOU FILTHY ANIMAL


EVENTUALLY, THE SHEXA AND HIS REGULAR CONCUBINE DO FALL ASLEEP—ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY FROM THE DOOMED FEMALE PRISONER MERCILESSLY BOUND AND GAGGED IN THEIR BOUDOIR
SPENT AND CONTENT, THE SHEXA SLEEPS DEEPLY AND SOUNDLY


IT IS HOURS LATER WHEN THE KNIFE IS POISED—AND RAYS FROM A MORNING SUN GLINT OFF THE LETHAL GLEAMING BLADE...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
QUIET! I DON'T BELIEVE FOR ONE MOMENT MARDU WOULD GO THROUGH WITH YOUR HANGING!

HE'S TOO FICKLE WHEN IT COMES TO YOUNG FLESH!
NOW I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE HELPING ME TO ESCAPE!

AN HOUR LATER—A DOOMED MAN IS DRAGGED ACROSS THE COURTYARD... TOWARD THE FINAL MOMENTS OF LIFE...
BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO HIS EXECUTIONERS—A PAIR OF PLOTTING FEMALES ARE WATCHING NEARBY..

THEY'RE TAKING HIM BY WAY OF THE EMBANKMENT... THE SAME EMBANKMENT WHERE THE BALLOON IS TIED!
NOW IS MY ONLY CHANCE... OUR CHANCE!

CONTINUED IN EERIE #100

GURN HAD BEEN WATCHING THE GREEN HEAVENS ALL DAY LONG, EVER SINCE HE HAD FIRST SPIED THE WANDERING "STAR" IN THE MORNING SKY. BY NOON OF THE FIRST SUN, HE WAS CERTAIN IT WAS AN AIR SHIP AND AS THE SECOND SUN ASCENDED FROM THE HORIZON, HE RECOGNIZED ITS DESIGN. THE CRAFT WAS FROM HIS HOME PLANET...EARTH.

THE SHINING SEA

BY DUSK, THE SHIP HAD SETTLED UPON THE EASY ROLLING WAVES OF THE RED SEA. GURN'S HERITAGE HAD AT LAST ARRIVED!

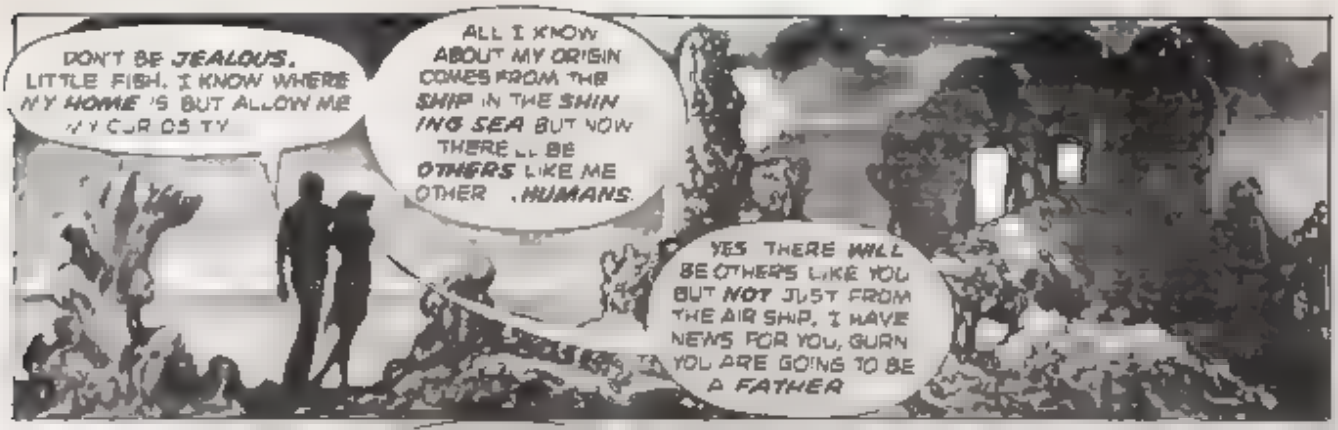
DORVA! DORVA! IT'S DOWN IN THE RED SEA. IN THE MORNING WE'LL HITCH UP FYGNAR AND I'LL GO OUT TO THEM DORVA!

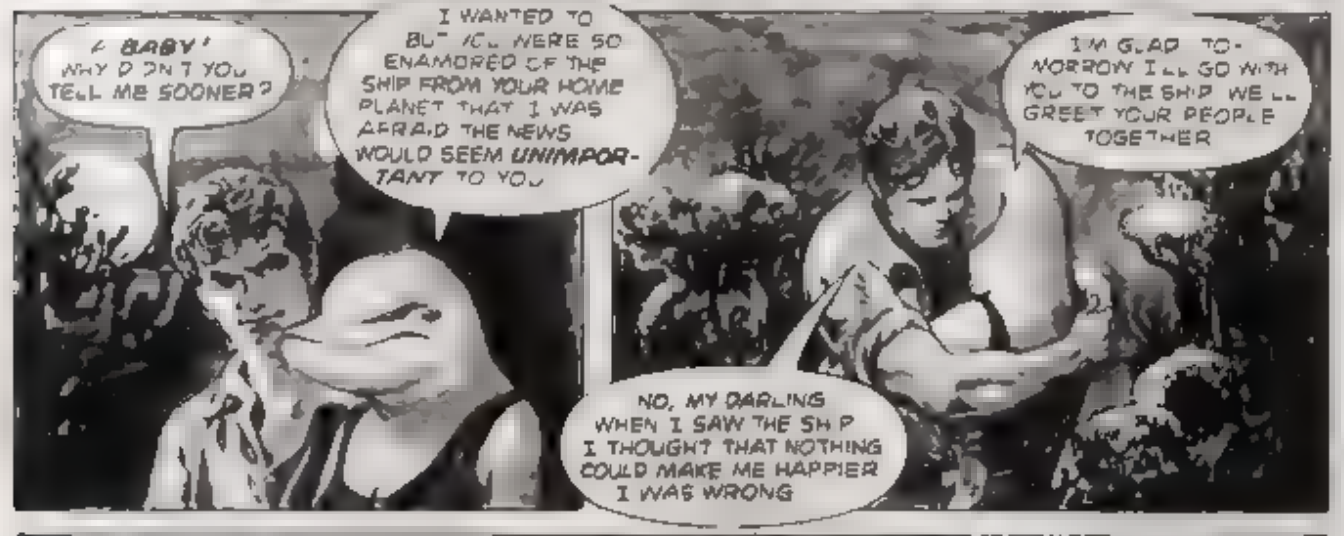
NO NEED TO SHOUT HUSBAND I AM HERE

MY PEOPLE CAN YOU IMAGINE THEY'VE FINALLY COME FOR ME AFTER NEARLY EIGHTEEN YEARS THEY'RE HERE

AND WE, GURN, [illegible] PEOPLE FOR THOSE EIGHTEEN YEARS WILL YOU LEAVE US? WILL YOU FORGET KAY THE DOLF WHO RAISED YOU AND DORVA WHO LOVES YOU?

SCRIPT:NICOLA CUTI/ART:ALFREDO ALCALA

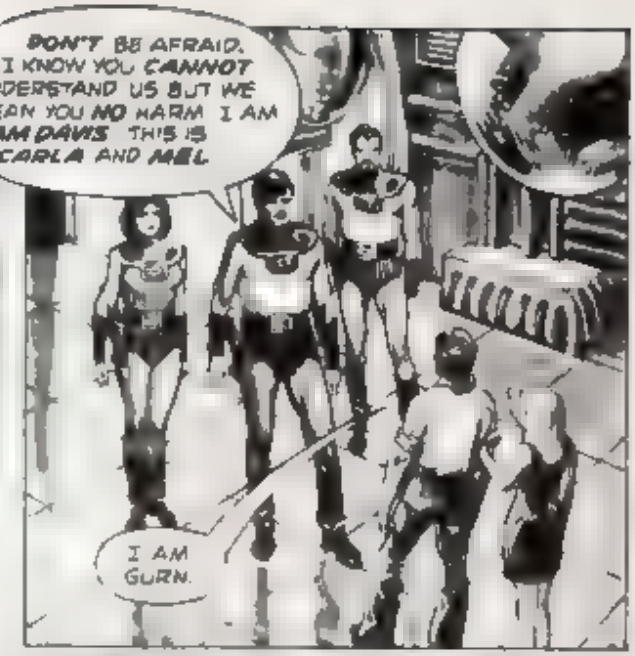

DON'T BE JEALOUS, LITTLE FISH. I KNOW WHERE MY HOME IS BUT ALLOW ME MY CURIOSITY
ALL I KNOW ABOUT MY ORIGIN COMES FROM THE SHIP IN THE SHINING SEA BUT NOW THERE'LL BE OTHERS LIKE ME OTHER HUMANS.
YES THERE WILL BE OTHERS LIKE YOU BUT NOT JUST FROM THE AIR SHIP. I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU, GURN YOU ARE GOING TO BE A FATHER

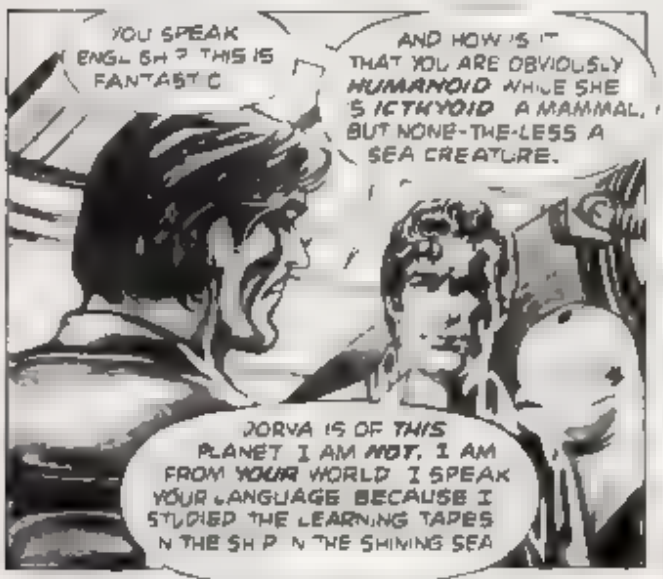

A BABY! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?
I WANTED TO BUT YOU WERE SO ENAMORED OF THE SHIP FROM YOUR HOME PLANET THAT I WAS AFRAID THE NEWS WOULD SEEM UNIMPORTANT TO YOU
I'M GLAD TOMORROW I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE SHIP WE'LL GREET YOUR PEOPLE TOGETHER
NO, MY DARLING WHEN I SAW THE SHIP I THOUGHT THAT NOTHING COULD MAKE ME HAPPIER I WAS WRONG

IN THE MORNING
I'M FRIGHTENED, GURN IF IT WERE NOT FOR YOU, I WOULD THINK THEY WERE GODS
IT'S THE SIZE OF AN ISLAND, EVEN BIGGER THAN THE SHIP BENEATH THE SHINING SEA.

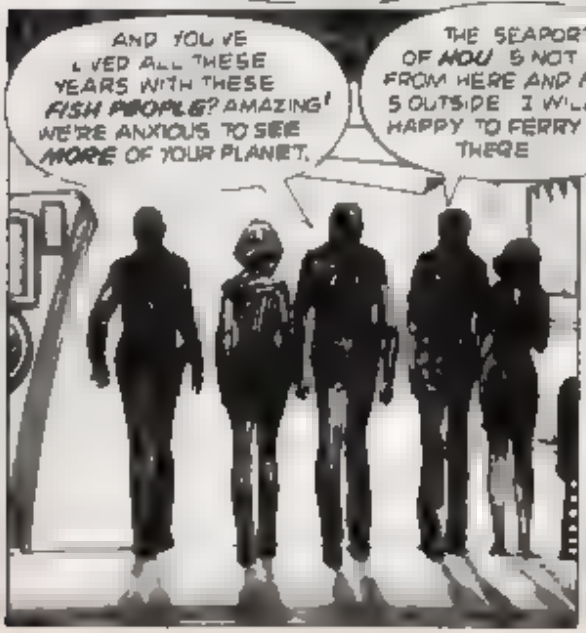
AH, THEY WANT US TO COME ABOARD THIS IS EXCITING!
YOU'RE COMING BACK, AREN'T YOU? YOU WON'T LEAVE WITH THEM NOT WHEN WE HAVE A BABY COMING
WE'RE GOING ABOARD TOGETHER

WHERE ARE THEY? WHY HAVEN'T THEY
SHHH! THE DOORWAY AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR IS OPENING THEY ARE COMING


DON'T BE AFRAID. I KNOW YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND US BUT WE MEAN YOU NO HARM I AM SAM DAVIS THIS IS CARLA AND MEL
I AM GURN.

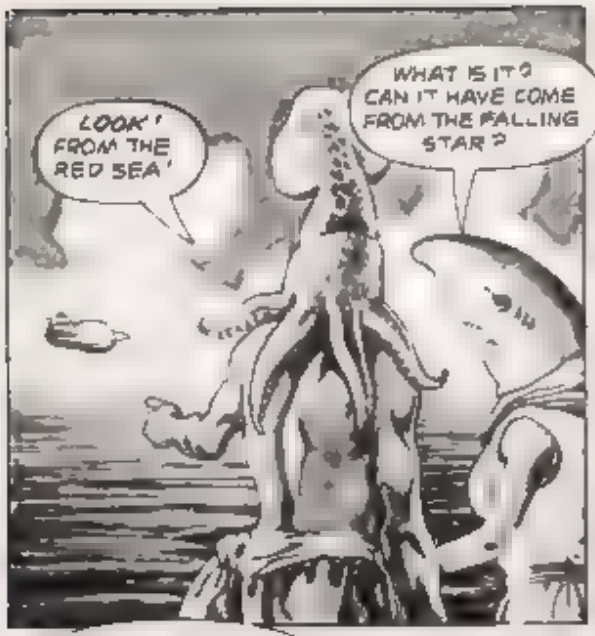

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? THIS IS FANTASTIC
AND HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY HUMANOID WHILE SHE IS ICTHYOID A MAMMAL, BUT NONE-THE-LESS A SEA CREATURE.
DORVA IS OF THIS PLANET I AM NOT. I AM FROM YOUR WORLD I SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE BECAUSE I STUDIED THE LEARNING TAPES IN THE SHIP IN THE SHINING SEA

LORD SAM HE'S FROM THE SACHETTI EXPEDITION! THEY DISAPPEARED SEVERAL DECADES AGO IN THIS GALACTIC SECTOR
ARE THERE ANY OTHER SURVIVORS
I AM THE ONLY ONE


AND YOU'VE LIVED ALL THESE YEARS WITH THESE FISH PEOPLE? AMAZING! WE'RE ANXIOUS TO SEE MORE OF YOUR PLANET.
THE SEAPORT OF MOU IS NOT FAR FROM HERE AND MY SHIP IS OUTSIDE I WILL BE HAPPY TO FERRY YOU THERE

WE'LL GET THERE MUCH SOONER BY OUR SCOUT CRAFT CLIMB ABOARD GURN

THE WATERWORLD'S LAND MASSES CONSISTED OF HUNDREDS OF TINY ATOLLS ISLANDS MADE OF ROCK AND CORAL OF WHICH HOU WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST
DOLFS, SARKS QUIGS GELS AND OTHER VARIETY OF SEA DENIZENS GATHERED TO EXCHANGE GOODS THEY HAD GATHERED HONESTLY, OR PIRATED FOR WHAT THEY NEEDED


LOOK! FROM THE RED SEA!
WHAT IS IT? CAN IT HAVE COME FROM THE FALLING STAR?

I'LL TRANSLATE FOR YOU. I AM WELL KNOWN IN THIS PORT.
PEOPLE OF HOU! THESE ARE MY FRIENDS!
WE'RE FORTUNATE TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

I'LL BRING YOU TO KESO THE VILLAGE RULER. HE'S A FINE OLD DOLF. A GOOD FRIEND OF MY FATHER. I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE HIM.
UH... YES... TELL ME... ARE THOSE SPARING PISTOLS TYPICAL OF YOUR WEAPONS?

RARE? THERE IS MUCH OF IT BENEATH THE SEAS. THE DOLFS AND SCALIES HAVE MINES FULL OF IT.
WAIT... WHAT IS THIS? SAM, LOOK! GOLD! THE RAREST MINERAL IN THE GALAXY!

AH, HERE IS KESO. SIR, THESE ARE MY FRIENDS FROM MY HOME PLANET EARTH.
IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, KESO.

IT IS A SHAME WE WON'T GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.
ZZZITT!

OUR WEAPONS ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO YOURS. TELL YOUR PEOPLE NOT TO TRY TO RESIST US OR THEY WILL BE SLAUGHTERED.

TELL THEM ALL WE WANT IS THE *GOLD* AND A FEW THOUSAND *GEMS* FROM YOUR VILLAGES. THEN WE'LL LEAVE. TELL THEM NOW!

I WILL TELL THEM TO RESIST YOU. AS MY FATHER AND I FOUGHT THE SARK SCAVANGERS YOU ARE NO BETTER THEN *SEA SCUM*. YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE. MY FRIENDS.

I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY GURN

CAPTAIN TO SQUAD LEADER. LAY SOME *LIGHT* FIRE ON THE VILLAGE.

YES SIR!

ZZZIZZTZ

ZWORD

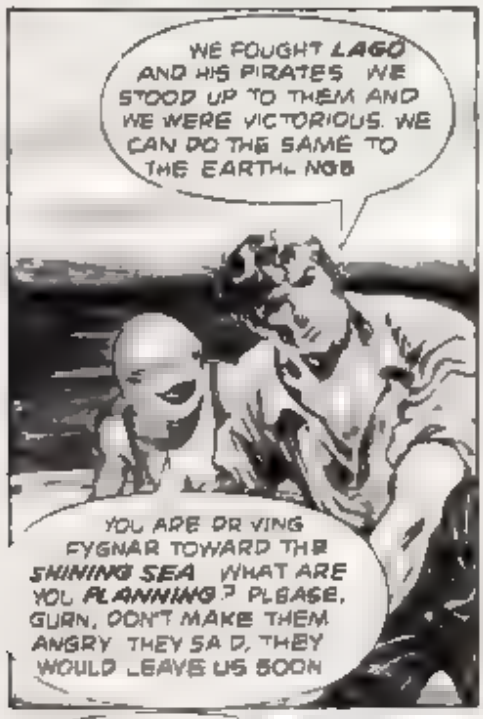
KA-BOOM

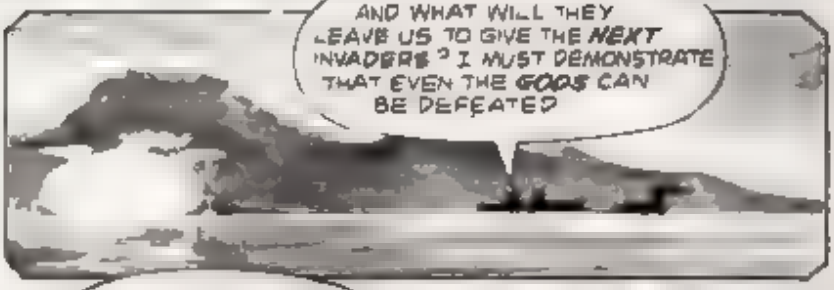
THIS IS ONLY A *MINOR* SHOW OF OUR POWER. IF I WANTED TO, I COULD *SINK* THE *ENTIRE* PORT INTO THE SEA.

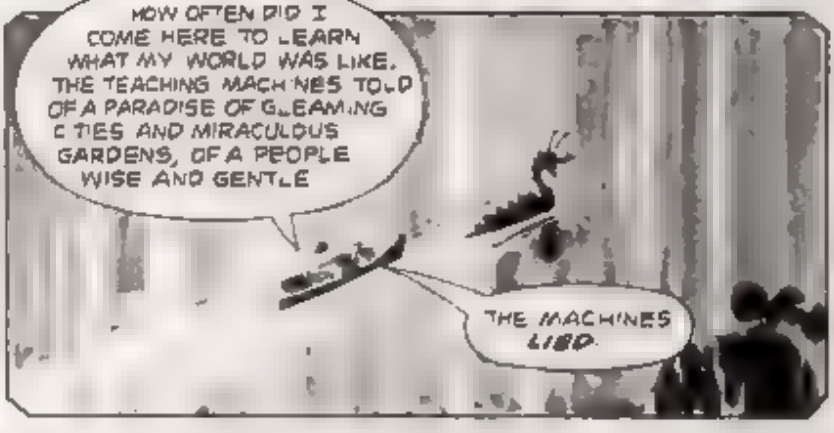
FOR THE *LAST* TIME, TELL THE FISH FACES TO COOPERATE WITH US.

I'LL TELL THEM.

IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, MY HUSBAND. IF YOUR PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT, YOU CANNOT BE BLAMED. WE UNDERSTAND.


WE FOUGHT LAGO AND HIS PIRATES. WE STOOD UP TO THEM AND WE WERE VICTORIOUS. WE CAN DO THE SAME TO THE EARTH LORD.
YOU ARE DRIVING FYGNAR TOWARD THE SHINING SEA. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING? PLEASE, GURN, DON'T MAKE THEM ANGRY. THEY SAID, THEY WOULD LEAVE US SOON.


AND WHAT WILL THEY LEAVE US TO GIVE THE NEXT INVADERS? I MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT EVEN THE GODS CAN BE DEFEATED.


HOW OFTEN DID I COME HERE TO LEARN WHAT MY WORLD WAS LIKE. THE TEACHING MACHINES TOLD OF A PARADISE OF GLEAMING CITIES AND MIRACULOUS GARDENS, OF A PEOPLE WISE AND GENTLE.
THE MACHINES LIED.

I AM FROM A RACE OF MURDERERS AND PLUNDERERS, WORSE THAN THE SARK SCAVANGERS.
MY BLOOD ISN'T THE NOBLE BLOOD OF SPACE TRAVELERS. IT'S THE SOUR BLOOD OF PIRATES AND I AM ASHAMED.
OUR CHILD WILL HAVE BOTH OUR BLOOD AND I AM NOT ASHAMED.

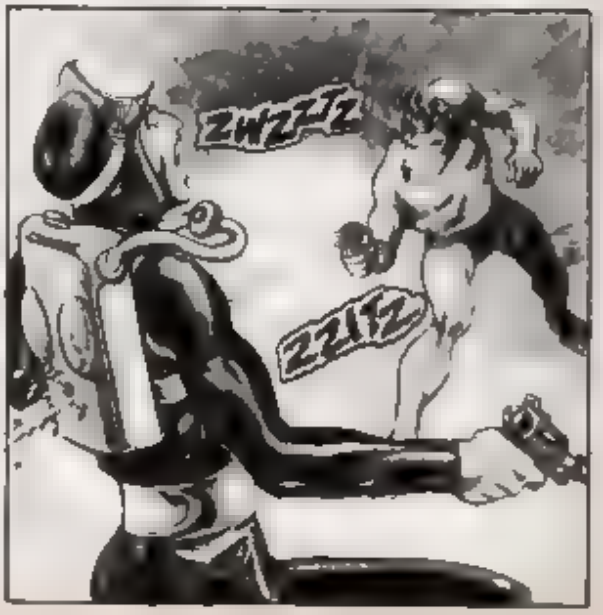
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOARD THE SHIP THAT BROUGHT YOU TO OUR PLANET IT IS BEYOND REPAIR AND IS HARDLY A MATCH FOR THE INVADER'S CRAFT

IT IS NOT AS USELESS AS YOU MIGHT THINK. IT WON'T EVER SOAR THROUGH THE SKIES BUT PERHAPS THROUGH THE SEA

THE ENGINE STILL CONTAINS FUEL AND I'VE LEARNED HOW TO OPERATE THE CANNONS FROM THE CONTROL ROOM I CAN...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE

I TOLD YOU BEFORE OUR METHOD OF TRAVEL IS MUCH FASTER THAN YOURS AND I KINDA FIGURED A BRASH YOUNG KID LIKE YOU WOULD MAKE A TRY AT DEFEATING US
NICE TRY LAST TRY
THERE'S A PISTOL STILL IN THAT SKELETON'S GRIP ...IF I CAN JUST REACH IT IN TIME...

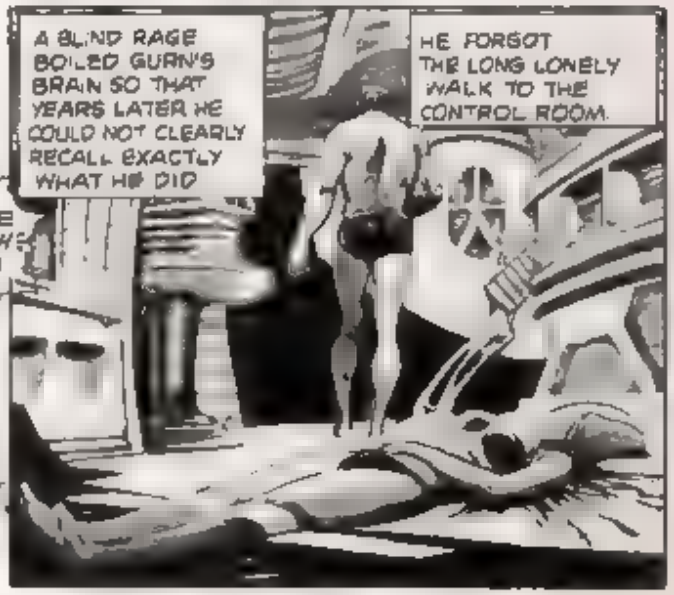
DORVA! GET DOWN!
GUR
AAIIII!
ZIZZZZ

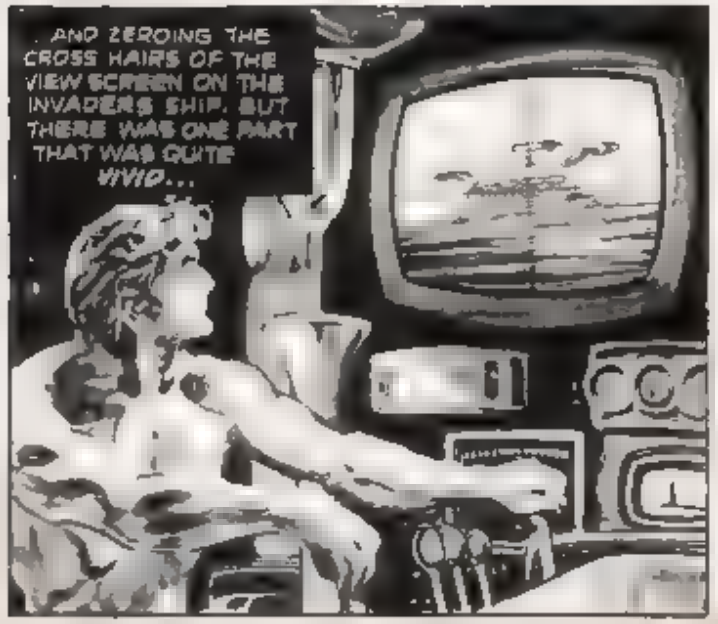

ZWZZZZ
ZZIZZ

yiiii!
ZZZZIZT
ZWORP

DORVA! THERE'S SOME MEDICINE ABOARD WONDER DRUGS I...
DON'T (COUGH) DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME IT'S NOT SO AWFUL ABOUT ME BUT I WANTED SO MUCH TO GIVE YOU A CHILD.
I WONDER IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BOY OR GIRL?

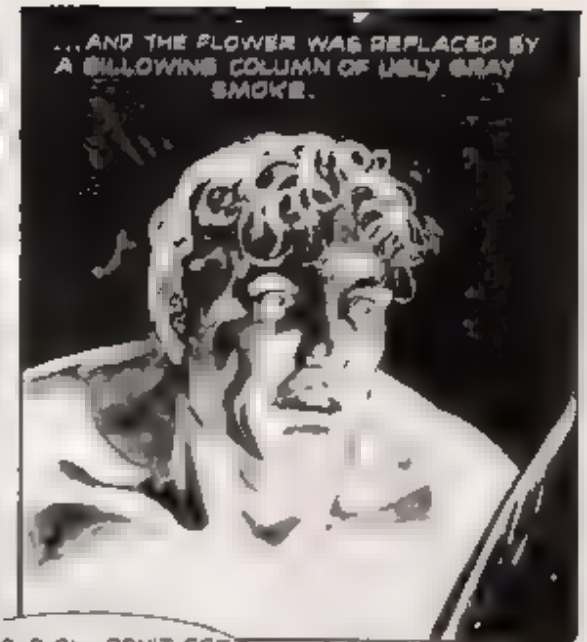
GURN, DARLING, YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG TO STAND (COUGH) STAND UP TO THEM
BUT KNOWING YOU I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ARE ALL (COUGH) BAD HAVE FAITH IN YOUR PEOPLE THEY
DORVA!


A BLIND RAGE BOILED GURN'S BRAIN SO THAT YEARS LATER HE COULD NOT CLEARLY RECALL EXACTLY WHAT HE DID
HE FORGOT THE LONG LONELY WALK TO THE CONTROL ROOM.


AND ZEROING THE CROSS HAIRS OF THE VIEW SCREEN ON THE INVADERS SHIP. BUT THERE WAS ONE PART THAT WAS QUITE VIVID...

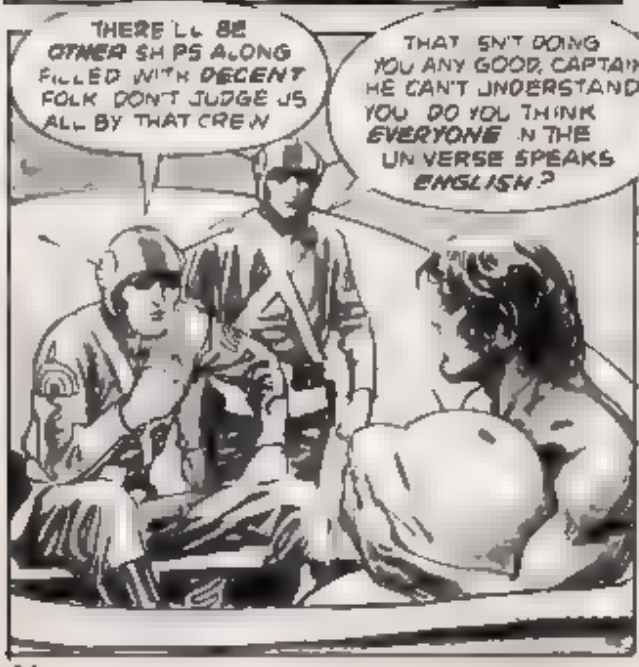
ZZITT
ZZWORR

A FLOWER OF LIGHT BLOOMED ON THE SEA. THE FLAMES BLOSSOMED SO UNNATURALLY, SO BEAUTIFULLY BUT EVENTUALLY EVEN THE BRILLIANCE OF ITS FIERY PETALS WITHERED...


...AND THE FLOWER WAS REPLACED BY A BILLOWING COLUMN OF UGLY GRAY SMOKE.

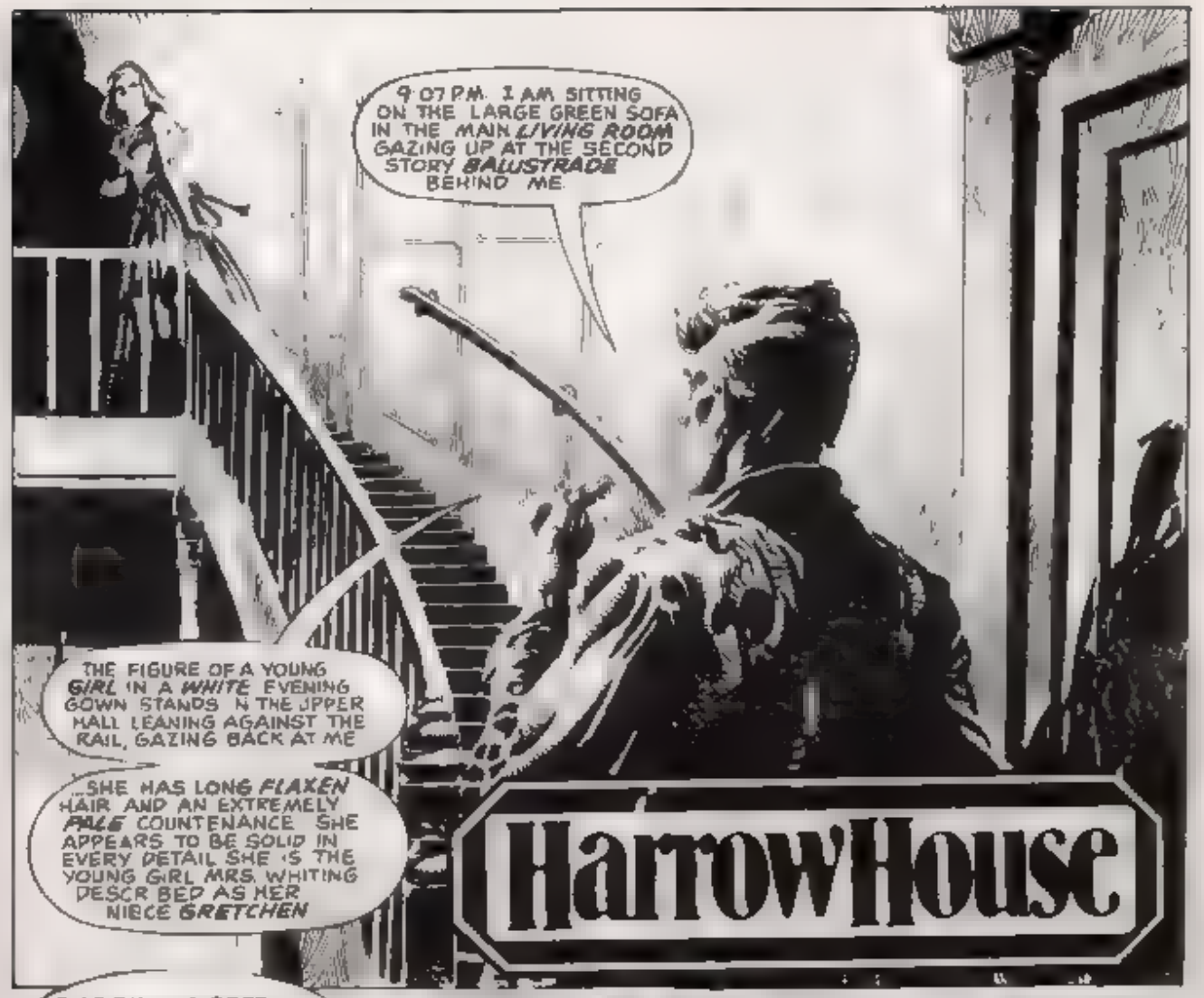
THAT WAS GOOD SHOOTIN', BUDDY. YOU TOOK 'EM OUT QUICK AND PAINLESS.

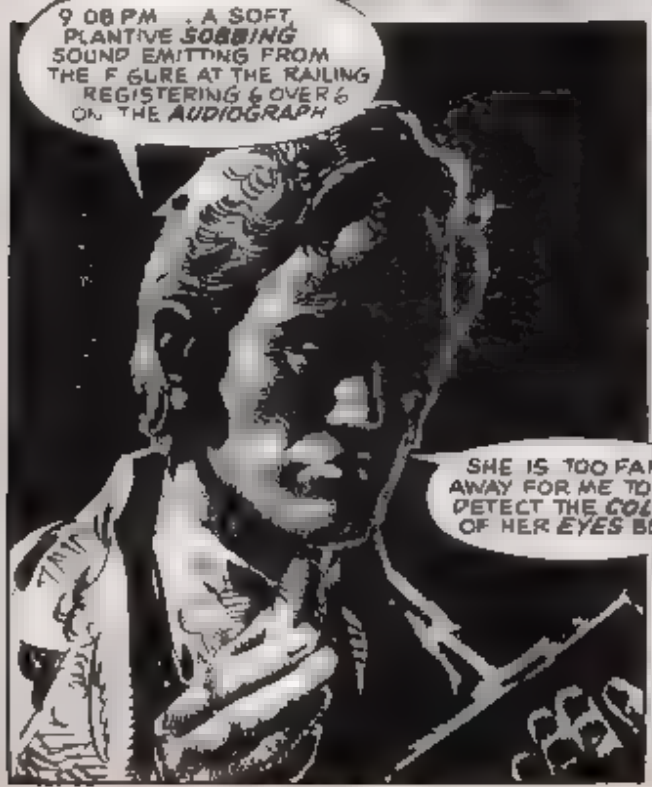
HOLD ON. DON'T GET EXCITED. WE'RE POLICE. WE'VE BEEN AFTER THAT CREW FOR QUITE SOME TIME. YOU SAVED US A LOT OF TROUBLE.

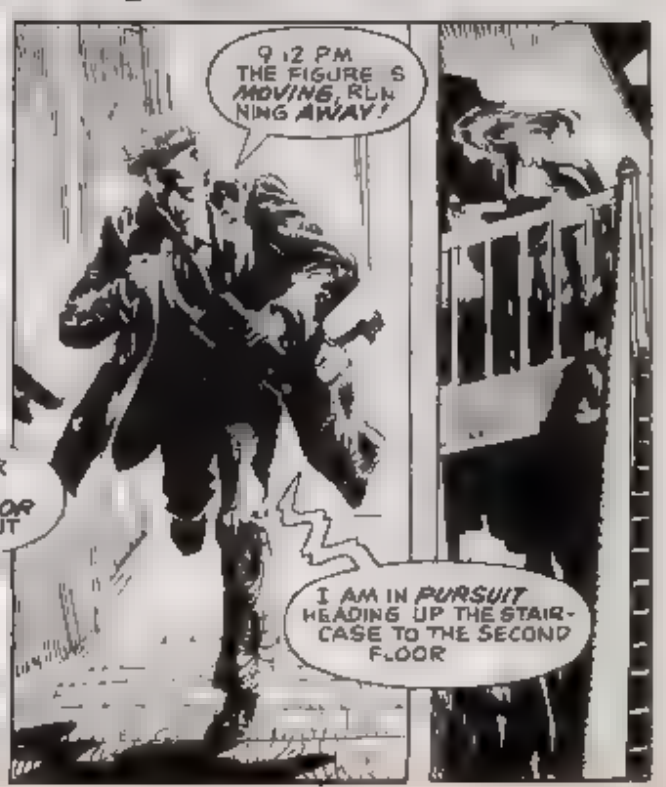

THERE'LL BE OTHER SHIPS ALONG FILLED WITH DECENT FOLK. DON'T JUDGE US ALL BY THAT CREW.
THAT ISN'T DOING YOU ANY GOOD, CAPTAIN. HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU. DO YOU THINK EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE SPEAKS ENGLISH?

YOU WERE RIGHT, DORYA. MY PEOPLE ARE COMING AT LAST.
HUH! WELL, I'LL BE

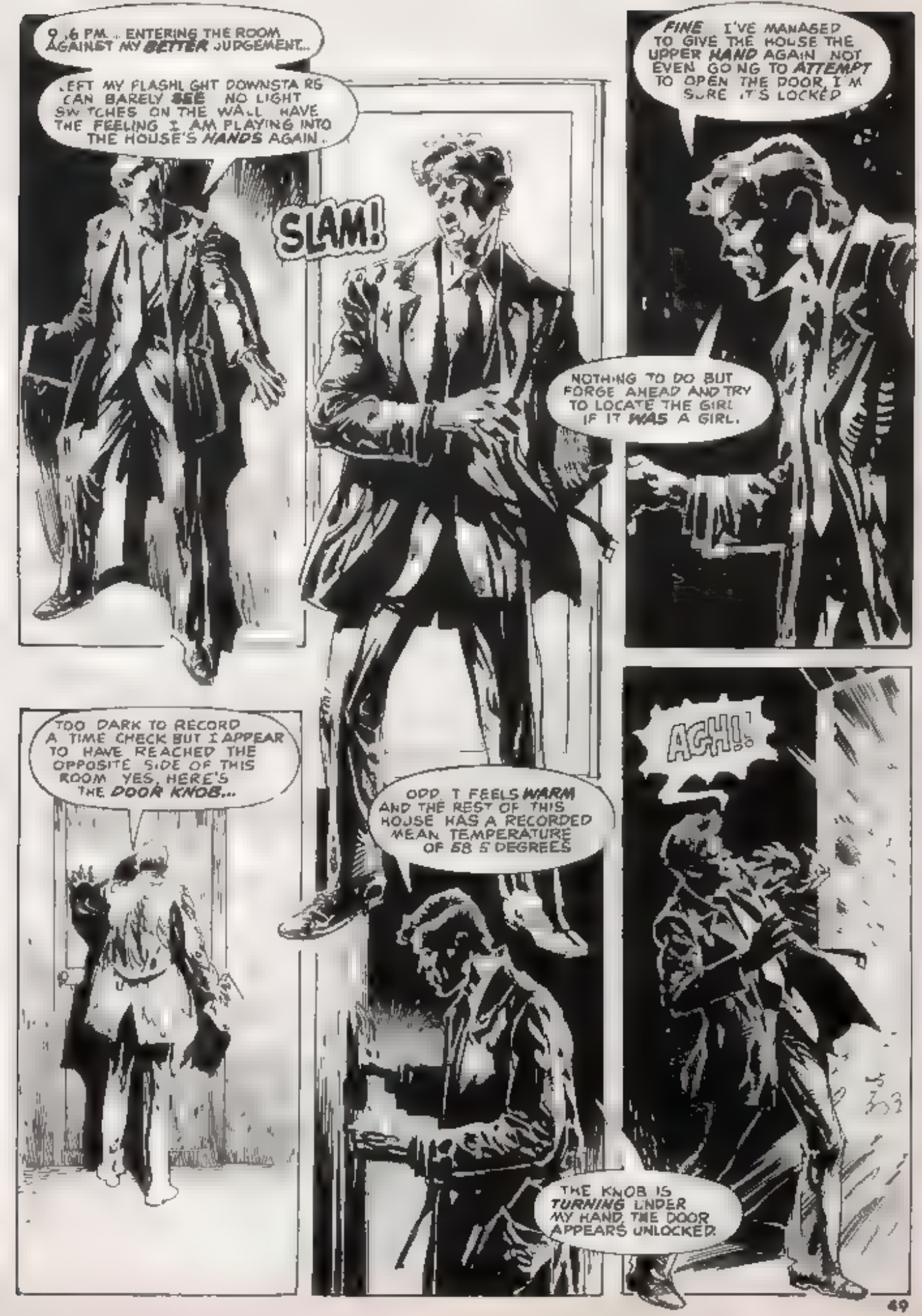
END


9:07 P.M. I AM SITTING ON THE LARGE GREEN SOFA IN THE MAIN LIVING ROOM GAZING UP AT THE SECOND STORY BALUSTRADE BEHIND ME.
THE FIGURE OF A YOUNG GIRL IN A WHITE EVENING GOWN STANDS IN THE UPPER HALL LEANING AGAINST THE RAIL, GAZING BACK AT ME
...SHE HAS LONG FLAXEN HAIR AND AN EXTREMELY PALE COUNTENANCE. SHE APPEARS TO BE SOLID IN EVERY DETAIL. SHE IS THE YOUNG GIRL MRS. WHITING DESCRIBED AS HER NIECE GRETCHEN
HarrowHouse


9:08 P.M. A SOFT, PLAINTIVE SOBBING SOUND EMITTING FROM THE FIGURE AT THE RAILING REGISTERING 6 OVER 6 ON THE AUDIOGRAPH
SHE IS TOO FAR AWAY FOR ME TO DETECT THE COLOR OF HER EYES BUT


9:12 P.M. THE FIGURE IS MOVING, RUNNING AWAY!
I AM IN PURSUIT HEADING UP THE STAIRCASE TO THE SECOND FLOOR

LOCKED..
BANG! BANG!
..TRYING TO FORCE THE DOOR.
F GURE HAS DISAPPEARED BEHIND A LOCKED DOOR AT THE END OF THE SECOND FLOOR HALL STRONG ODOR OF OZONE IN THE AIR
(PANT!-PANT!) USELESS ..C-CAN'T MOVE IT. (PANT) DOOR IS SOLID OAK..
CREEEK!
9 15 P.M. THE DOOR HAS OPENED OF ITS OWN ACCORD SHOULD I ENTER? LOOKS LIKE AN OPEN INVITATION BUT TO WHAT?


9.6 P.M. .. ENTERING THE ROOM AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGEMENT...
LEFT MY FLASHLIGHT DOWNSTAIRS CAN BARELY SEE NO LIGHT SWITCHES ON THE WALL HAVE THE FEELING I AM PLAYING INTO THE HOUSE'S HANDS AGAIN.
SLAM!
FINE I'VE MANAGED TO GIVE THE HOUSE THE UPPER HAND AGAIN NOT EVEN GOING TO ATTEMPT TO OPEN THE DOOR I'M SURE IT'S LOCKED
NOTHING TO DO BUT FORGE AHEAD AND TRY TO LOCATE THE GIRL IF IT WAS A GIRL.
TOO DARK TO RECORD A TIME CHECK BUT I APPEAR TO HAVE REACHED THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THIS ROOM YES, HERE'S THE DOOR KNOB...
ODD IT FEELS WARM AND THE REST OF THIS HOUSE HAS A RECORDED MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 58.5 DEGREES
AGH!
THE KNOB IS TURNING UNDER MY HAND THE DOOR APPEARS UNLOCKED.

MY GOD! A BLAST FURNACE! THE WHOLE ROOM IS A BLAST FURNACE OR AN EXCELLENT IMITATION OF ONE!

HEAT TOO MUCH! GOTTA GET AWAY

WHAT THE HELL!!??

THE FLOOR! IT'S SLANTING!! SLANTING TOWARD THE THE

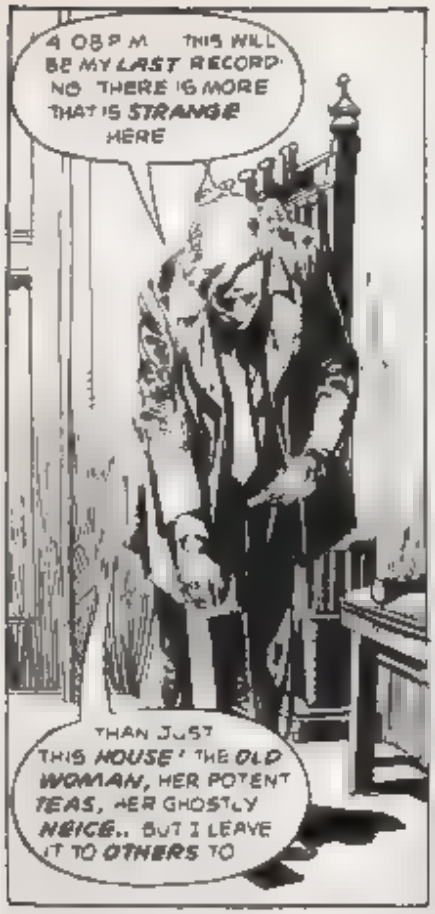
I CAN'T HOLD ON! I'M SLIPPING!!

MUSTN'T GIVE IN! MUSTN'T LET THE HOUSE TRICK ME! IT'S AN ILLUSION ALL AN ILLUSION... ALL...

OH GOD!! THE PAIN! THE HEAT!! IT IS REAL. PLEASE STOP IT! I SURRENDER!! IT IS REAL I ADMIT IT!!.. YOU'VE WON! STOP IT!!

NO!... NO!...
ARGGGH!

AAGGGHH!
MR RICHARDS! MR RICHARDS! OPEN YOUR EYES!
IT'S OVER! OPEN YOUR EYES!
T-THE FLAMES! THE FURNACE
I FOUND YOU FLOUNDERING ABOUT IN THE BUSHES BEHIND THE MANSION HEARD YOU SCREAMING ALL THE WAY FROM HERE HAVE SOME CHINESE GUNPOWDER, MR RICHARDS, IT WILL SOOTHE YOU
THE HOUSE I LET IT OUTWIT ME AGAIN CATCH ME OFF GUARD.
..ARE GONE, MR RICHARDS THEY WERE ONLY IN YOUR HEAD ANYWAY!
INDEED YOU DID IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO SUMMON YOU HERE, I SEE THAT NOW EVEN A MAN WITH YOUR REPUTATION IS HELPLESS AGAINST A FORCE AS INDOMITABLE AS HARROW HOUSE.
PERHAPS IT IS BETTER THIS WAY I'M AN OLD WOMAN WEARY OF LIVING
I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE THESE HILLS JUST AS SOON AS YOU CAN
I CAN'T SIMPLY ABANDON YOU! I'VE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING!
NATURALLY I WILL PAY YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES THUS FAR ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
STILL A BIT WEAK THE MANSION SEEMS TO HAVE A DRAINING AFFECT ON ME SAPPING ALL MY STRENGTH
BUT I COULDN'T THINK OF TAKING YOUR MONEY YOU'RE NEARLY OUT OF INSULIN! WHAT WILL YOU DO?
PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME TO DISPENSE WITH THE NEEDLE MR RICHARDS.
I AM TIRED OF CARRYING THE BURDEN OF IT IT SUSTAINS A LIFE THAT WAS MEANT LONG AGO TO BE ENDED
GOODNIGHT, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE
I'LL NEED TO RETURN TO THE MANSION ONE LAST TIME TO COLLECT MY EQUIPMENT BUT I'LL WAIT TILL TOMORROW AND BROAD DAYLIGHT!


4 08 P.M. THIS WILL BE MY LAST RECORD. NO THERE IS MORE THAT IS STRANGE HERE
THAN JUST THIS HOUSE! THE OLD WOMAN, HER POTENT TEAS, HER GHOSTLY NEICE.. BUT I LEAVE IT TO OTHERS TO

SOB SOB..

SOB SOB

SOB SOB

CREEEK

SOB SOB

GRETCHEN WHITING?
GO! YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE! YOUR LIFE IS IN GREAT DANGER HERE!

ARE YOU GRETCHEN WHITING?

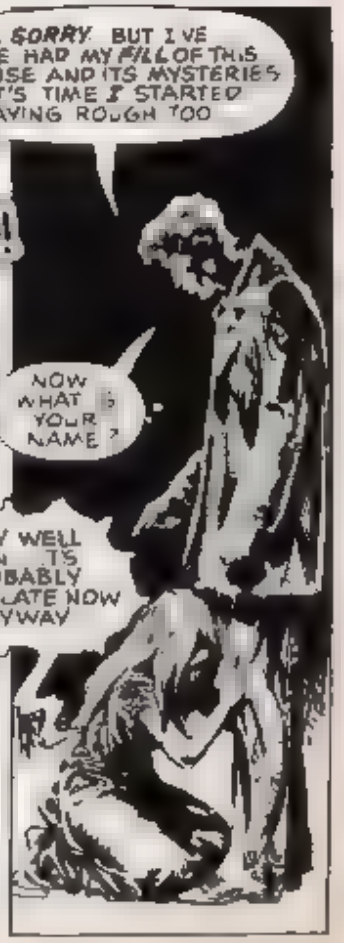
WAIT!

YOU'RE NO SPIRIT! YOU'RE SOLID FLESH AND BLOOD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
PLEASE! LET ME GO! SHE'LL FIND US TOGETHER! SHE'LL KILL US!

WHO? WHO IN
PLEASE! I BEG OF YOU! IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE LEAVE THIS GODLESS PLACE! LEAVE BEFORE IT CLAIMS YET ANOTHER VICTIM!

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS NOW FOR THE LAST TIME, WHO ARE YOU?
LET ME GO!!

I'M SORRY BUT I'VE HAVE HAD MY FILL OF THIS HOUSE AND ITS MYSTERIES IT'S TIME I STARTED PLAYING ROUGH TOO
SLAP!
SOB SOB OH GOD


NOW WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
VERY WELL THEN IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE NOW ANYWAY

YES I AM GRETCHEN WHITING, ABAGAIL WHITING'S NIECE YOU'VE NO DOUBT MET MY AUNT AT THE SERVANTS' COTTAGE

SHE CLAIMED YOU DIED EIGHT YEARS AGO THAT YOUR SPIRIT HAS POSSESSION [illegible]

HUMPH! MY AUNT CLAIMS MANY THINGS MR RICHARDS DID SHE ALSO TELL YOU HOW I DROVE THE OTHER TENANTS OF HARROW HOUSE INSANE?

DID SHE TELL YOU THAT I "DIED" IN A MYSTERIOUS AND TERRIBLE WAY EIGHT YEARS AGO? DID SHE POINT PITEOUSLY TO HER DWINDLING BOTTLES OF INSULIN WHILE SERVING YOU CHINESE GUNPOWDER?

LIES, MR RICHARDS ALL LIES...

EXPLAIN

EVER HEAR OF VAMPIRISM, MR RICHARDS?

CUNNING CREATURES, VAMPIRES.. CUNNING AND INSIDIOUS EVEN WHEN ATTAINING THEIR POST LATE IN LIFE

WERE YOU TO OPEN ONE OF THOSE BOTTLES ON HER SHELF YOU WOULD FIND THAT THEY CONTAIN NOT INSULIN BUT HUMAN BLOOD YOUR BLOOD!

B BUT

YOU LOOK TIRED MR RICHARDS DRAINED OR HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IT LATELY?

MODERN VAMPIRES DON'T GO FLAPPING ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE BITING PEOPLE IN THE NECK PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY'RE EIGHTY YEARS OLD THERE ARE MORE SUBTLE WAYS

I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHEN IT WAS SHE WROTE INVITING ME TO STAY WITH HER IN HARROW HOUSE.

I KNOW I WAS ON MY OWN IN NEW YORK BUT THE REST IS UNCLEAR ...SHE'S BEEN FEEDING ME THAT DOPED-UP CHINESE TEA TOO LONG.

ANYWAY, I SOON LEARNED WHAT PART I WAS TO PLAY IN HER LITTLE SCHEME.

I WAS TO BE THE BAIT THAT LURED HEALTHY YOUNG TENANTS TO THE MANSION. TENANTS RIPE WITH FRESH BLOOD ,TENANTS LIKE YOU...!

ONLY THEY HAD TO BE THE RIGHT KIND OF TENANTS TO HAVE THE HONOR OF STAYING AT HARROW HOUSE MEN WITHOUT FAMILIES WHO COULD VANISH SUDDENLY FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH

AND ONCE HOOKED ON HER HALLUCINOGENIC TEA THEY WERE EASY PREY TO HER BLOOD-SUCKING SYRINGE.. I'VE EVEN PROCURED YOUNG GIRLS FOR HER GOD HELP ME!

BUT WHY GRETCHEN? WHY DID YOU DO IT?

BECAUSE I'M WEAK BECAUSE OF THE DRUG AND BECAUSE I'M AFRAID TO DIE OH SHE'D KILL ME IN A MINUTE WERE I TO DISOBEY HER

DON'T LET HER APPEARANCE AND THAT CANE FOOL YOU. SHE MAY BE OLD. MR RICHARDS, BUT SHE'S INCREDIBLY POWERFUL

MY GOD! ALL THIS TIME SHE'S BEEN DRAINING ME LIKE A LEECH! I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT TEA!

THE DOWNSTAIRS DOOR!
IT'S HER! SHE'S COME FOR A FRESH SUPPLY TO FILL HER VILE BOTTLES! THE DRUG WILL TAKE EFFECT ANY MOMENT
SLAM!

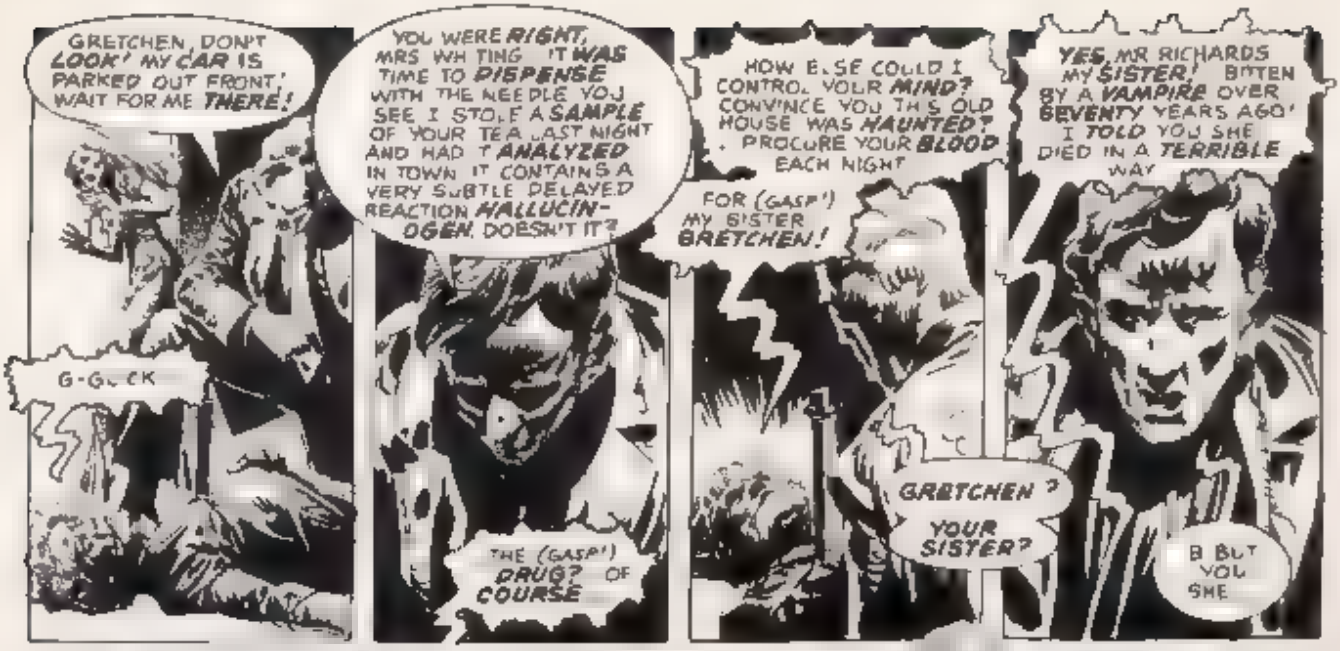
NOT THIS TIME!! WON'T! I DON'T SWALLOW ANY TEA ONLY PRETENDED TO! I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THE TASTE!
HE'LL NEED A WEAPON THE BED POST WILL DO JUST FINE!
CRACK

CLUMP
CLUMP
CLUMP
CLUMP
CLUMP

GOOD EVENING, GRETCHEN. YOU LOOK QUITE LOVELY TONIGHT!
HAS SHE BEEN SPINNING WILD TALES ABOUT ME AGAIN MR RICHARDS? SHE'S QUITE GOOD AT THAT YOU KNOW
DON'T LISTEN TO HER! DON'T LISTEN!

COME DARLING, IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM MR RICHARDS IS LEAVING US
NO! PLEASE! DON'T LET HER TOUCH ME!

BLOOD-SUCKING WITCH!
AGGHHH!

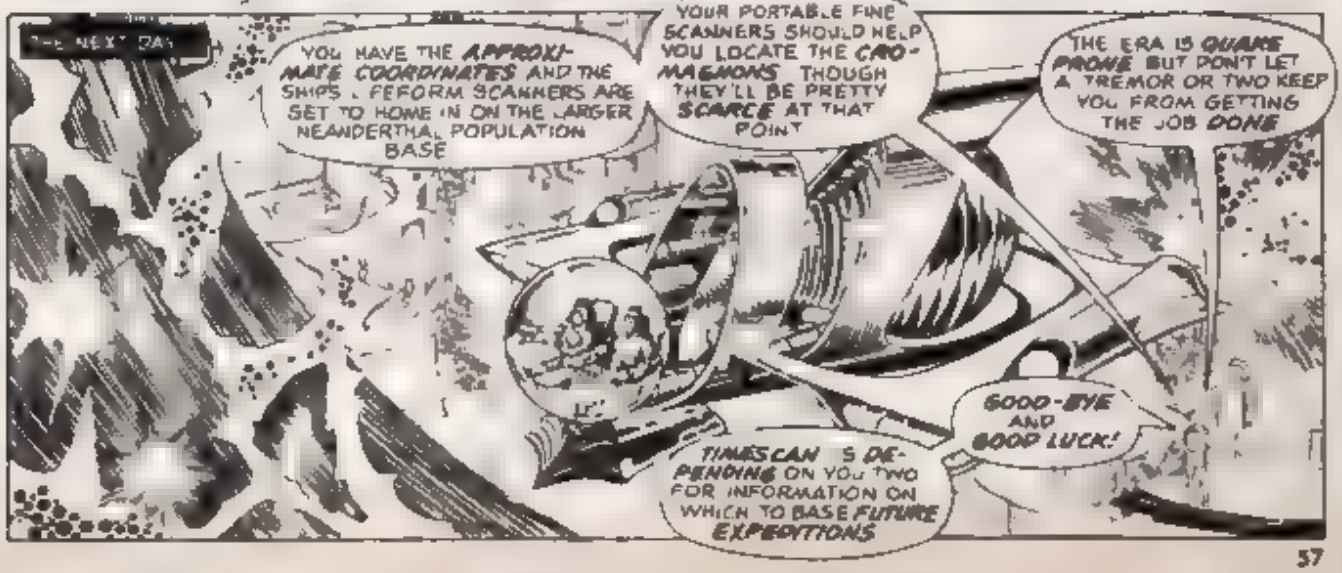

GRETCHEN, DON'T LOOK! MY CAR IS PARKED OUT FRONT, WAIT FOR ME THERE!
G-GUCK
YOU WERE RIGHT, MRS WHITING IT WAS TIME TO DISPENSE WITH THE NEEDLE YOU SEE I STOLE A SAMPLE OF YOUR TEA LAST NIGHT AND HAD IT ANALYZED IN TOWN IT CONTAINS A VERY SUBTLE DELAYED REACTION HALLUCINOGEN, DOESN'T IT?
THE (GASP!) DRUG? OF COURSE
HOW ELSE COULD I CONTROL YOUR MIND? CONVINCE YOU THIS OLD HOUSE WAS HAUNTED? PROCURE YOUR BLOOD EACH NIGHT
FOR (GASP!) MY SISTER GRETCHEN!
GRETCHEN? YOUR SISTER?
YES, MR RICHARDS MY SISTER! BITTEN BY A VAMPIRE OVER SEVENTY YEARS AGO! I TOLD YOU SHE DIED IN A TERRIBLE WAY
B BUT YOU SHE

EVEN NOW SHE BELIEVES ME THE VAMPIRE EVEN NOW AS SHE RUNS TO YOUR CAR IN THE (GASP!) SUN LIGHT!
EEEAAAHH
I LOVED HER, MR RICHARDS (GASP!) LOVED HER ENOUGH TO NEVER TELL HER THE REAL TRUTH ENOUGH TO INJECT HER WITH FRESH BLOOD EVERY DAY FOR SIX DECADES WHILE SHE SLEPT IN THE CRYPT BELOW
HHHHH HHHHHH!
GRETCHEN! GRETCHEN!
GRETCHEN

END

PROLOGUE

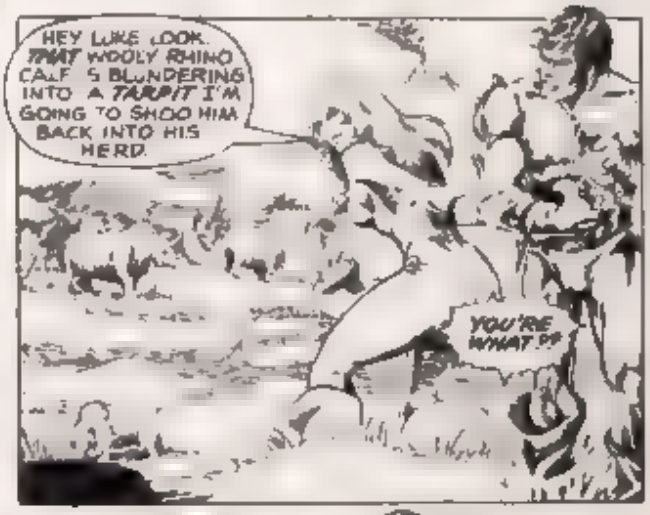
WHAT EXACTLY DOES TIMESPAN WANT US TO DO, DR FLASHER?
JUDGING BY THIS PICTURE THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRO MAGNON MAN AND US...AT LEAST EXTERNALLY
TIMESPAN INC S STUDYING PATTERNS OF AGGRESSION W TH SURVIVAL POTENT AL
WE WANT YOU TO OBSERVE THE CON FRONTATION BETWEEN NEANDERTHAL AND THE EARLIEST CRO-MAGNONS
OR INTERNALLY CRO MAGNON'S BRAIN CAPACITY EQUALS OUR OWN WITH TRAINING, HE'D PROBABLY BE AT HOME IN OUR SOCIETY
YOU SAID IN THE BRIEFING THAT CRO MAGNON VIED WITH NEANDERTHAL FOR OVER 35,000 YEARS THAT S A LOT OF TIME TO SIFT THROUGH
WE VE NARROWED THAT CONSIDERABLY
WE LL BE SENDING YOU BACK TO THE EARLY UPPER PLEISTOCENE WHERE FOSS L RECORDS INDICATE THAT CRO MAGNON FIRST APPEARED.
STUDY UP ON WHAT WE KNOW OF THESE PEOPLE YOU LEAVE FOR THE PLEISTOCENE N THE MORNING
YOU LL HAVE TO HECK THE SCANNING NSTRUMENTS TO DECIDE ON THE EXACT ERA AND LANDING SITE

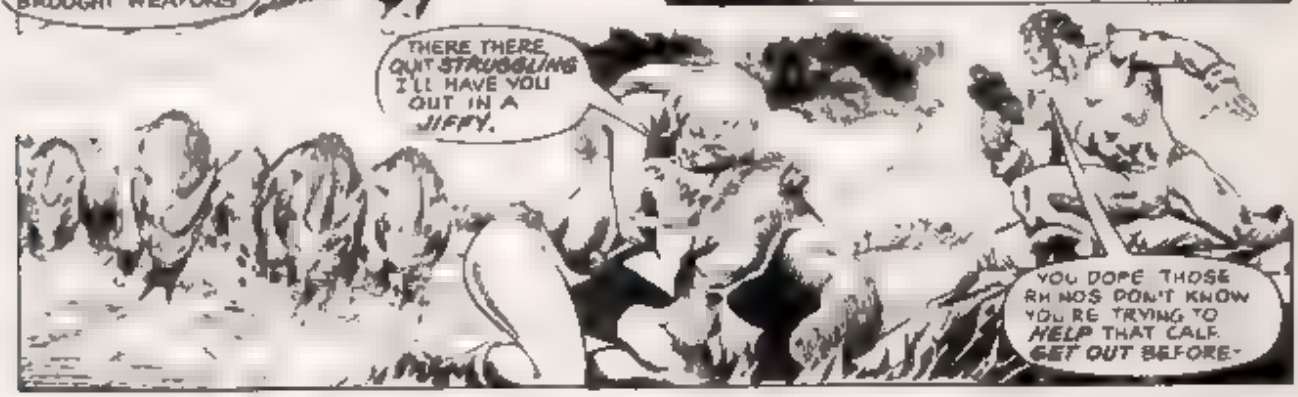

THE NEXT DAY
YOU HAVE THE APPROXIMATE COORDINATES AND THE SHIPS L FEFORM SCANNERS ARE SET TO HOME IN ON THE LARGER NEANDERTHAL POPULATION BASE
YOUR PORTABLE FINE SCANNERS SHOULD HELP YOU LOCATE THE CRO-MAGNONS THOUGH THEY'LL BE PRETTY SCARCE AT THAT POINT
THE ERA IS QUAKE PRONE BUT DON'T LET A TREMOR OR TWO KEEP YOU FROM GETTING THE JOB DONE
GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK!
TIMESCAN S DEPENDING ON YOU TWO FOR INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE FUTURE EXPEDITIONS

STORY LOUIS JONES/ART PABLO MARCOS

HUMAN READINGS IN THAT DIRECTION LOOKS LIKE NEANDERTHALS W/O CRO-MAGNONS YET.
I REALIZE WE MIGHT DISRUPT THE TIME STREAM BY KILLING SOMETHING IMPORTANT BUT WELL IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THIS ERA IS GOING TO BE ANY PICNIC
LOTS OF OTHER WILDLIFE AROUND THOUGH. I WISH WE'D BROUGHT WEAPONS

WILD ANIMALS... WILD HUMANS HOW DO WE GET OURSELVES INTO THIS?
I'M A SUCKER FOR ADVENTURE YOU'RE A REAL MACHO HERO.
AND THE PAY WAS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP!


HEY LUKE LOOK. THAT WOOLY RHINO CALF IS BLUNDERING INTO A TARPIT I'M GOING TO SHOO HIM BACK INTO HIS HERD.
YOU'RE WHAT?!


THERE THERE, QUIT STRUGGLING I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A JIFFY.
YOU DOPE THOSE RHINOS DON'T KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP THAT CALF. GET OUT BEFORE-

THE GROUND IS STARTING TO SHAKE.
SOME OF THE SEISMIC ACTIVITY FLASHER WARNED US ABOUT I GUESS.
IT'S JUST A TREMOR BUT IT'S DISTRACTING THOSE MONSTERS. LET'S GET INTO THAT STAND OF TREES, BEFORE THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

AND SO THE INTREPID *TIMESCANNERS* ARRIVE AT THE NEANDERTHAL CAMP TO THE JOYFUL *CRIES* OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN...

...CHEERED BY THE UNEXPECTED *SUCCESS* OF THE HUNT

UNGH! LUKE WHERE ARE WE?
SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND. THE NEANDERTHALS BROUGHT US TO THEIR CAVE
OHMYGOD THOSE BONES LITTERING THE FLOOR THEY'RE HUMAN BONES
MAYBE THE ELUSIVE CRO-MAGNONS WILL ATTACK AND RESCUE US.
YEP I'M AFRAID WE'VE FALLEN IN WITH A BUNCH OF CANNIBALS
AND MORE BAD NEWS. THEY'RE IN THE PROCESS OF RIPPING OUR INSTRUMENTS TO SHREDS

NOT LIKELY AND BY THE TIME OUR SHIP RETURNS TO TIMESPAN HEAD-QUARTERS AND THEY COME FOR US THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT TO RESCUE I—
BUT IT'S BOUGHT US SOME TIME. THEY'RE DRAGGING US OUTSIDE
OH LORD ANOTHER TREMOR WORSE THAN THE FIRST THE ROOF IT'S CAVING IN...
RUMBLE RUMBLE
SKEWERED ON A SPIT OR BURIED UNDER TONS OF RUBBLE WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? EITHER WAY WE'RE DEAD.

ANGH!
THOK
UNLESS—
DROP HER!

RUN LISA AS FAST AND FAR AS YOU CAN THIS MOUNTAIN COULD COME TUMBLING DOWN ANY MINUTE NOW
UGH!

GO ON! I'LL FOLLOW AS SOON AS MY HANDS ARE FREE!
NO! I'M WAITING FOR YOU!

C'MON THEN RUN!
LOOK AT THE PLAIN! IT'S SPLITTING OPEN! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT ACROSS!
RUMBLE

WE'LL HAVE TO BEHIND US THE NEANDERTHALS!
THEY'RE MOVING FAST WE CAN'T OUTRUN THEM BUT THE SHIPS JUST AHEAD WE MAY BE ABLE TO LEAP THE CHASM AND REACH THE SHIP BEFORE THEY REACH US!

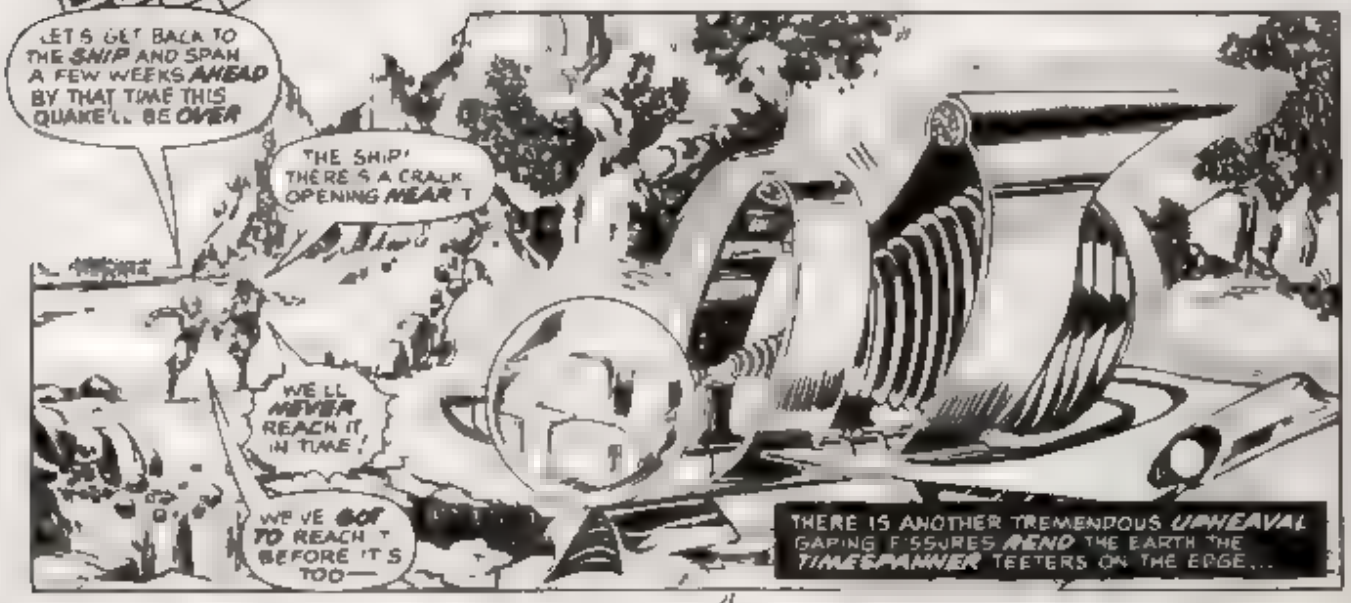
THE TREMORS. THEY'RE GROWING STRONG AGAIN!
THE CRACK IT'S SPLITTING WIDER!

JUMP! JUMP NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

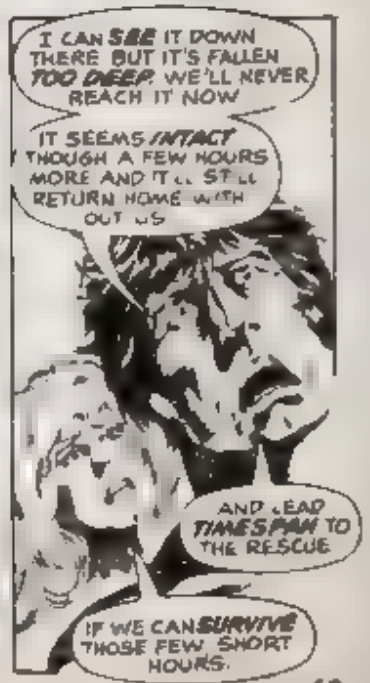
GRAB MY HAND!
EEEEEE! I CAN'T MAKE IT! I'M SLIPPING!

EEEEEEE

IT ALMOST KILLED ME BUT THE CHASM IS SPLIT SO WIDE NOW THAT THE MEANDER THALS CAN'T LEAP IT
THAT BUYS US A LITTLE TIME AND WE'LL NEED IT WITH THE GROUND QUIVERING LIKE JELLY!


LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP AND SPAN A FEW WEEKS AHEAD BY THAT TIME THIS QUAKE'LL BE OVER
THE SHIP! THERE'S A CRACK OPENING NEAR IT
WE'LL NEVER REACH IT IN TIME!
WE'VE GOT TO REACH IT BEFORE IT'S TOO—
THERE IS ANOTHER TREMENDOUS UPHEAVAL GAPING FISSURES REND THE EARTH THE TIMESPANNER TEETERS ON THE EDGE...

TOO LATE
...WITH TOPPLES INTO THE YAWNING ABYSS...


I CAN SEE IT DOWN THERE BUT IT'S FALLEN TOO DEEP. WE'LL NEVER REACH IT NOW
IT SEEMS INTACT THOUGH A FEW HOURS MORE AND IT'LL STILL RETURN HOME WITHOUT US
AND LEAD TIMESPAN TO THE RESCUE
IF WE CAN SURVIVE THOSE FEW SHORT HOURS.

BUT AS THE TIMESPANNERS WATCH *INCREDULOUSLY* THE WALLS OF THE FISSURE TREMBLE *VIOLENTLY* THEN *SLAM SHUT* WITH INCREDIBLE FORCE..

..BURYING THE *TIME MACHINE* DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH

THEN...

WHOOOOM!

GONE.. THE SPANNER IS *GONE*! WE'LL *NEVER* RETURN TO THE FUTURE NOW THEY'D HAVE TO SIFT THROUGH *THOUSANDS* OF YEARS TO LOCATE US.

WE RE *TRAPPED* HERE IN A *HOSTILE* PAST AND WE RE COMPLETELY UNEQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH IT.

LET'S FIND A TRIBE OF CRO-MAGNONS. THEY MIGHT LET US JOIN THEM THEN WE'D

STOP IT LUKE DON'T YOU *SEE* WHAT THIS MEANS?

WHY THERE WEREN'T *ANY* READINGS? WHY WE COULDN'T LOCATE A *SINGLE* CRO-MAGNON. WHY WE ARE SO MUCH *LIKE* THEM?

WE FULFILLED OUR MISSION ALL RIGHT WE OBSERVED THE *FIRST* THE *VERY* FIRST CONFRONTATION!

NOW WE RE *STUCK* HERE IN THE PAST ..*WE* AND OUR *CHILDREN* AND *THEIR CHILDREN*. WE'RE OUR OWN *ANCESTORS*

DON'T YOU *SEE*? THERE NEVER *WERE* ANY CRO MAGNONS TILL *WE ARRIVED*

LUKE.. WE *ARE* THE *CRO-MAGNONS*.

END

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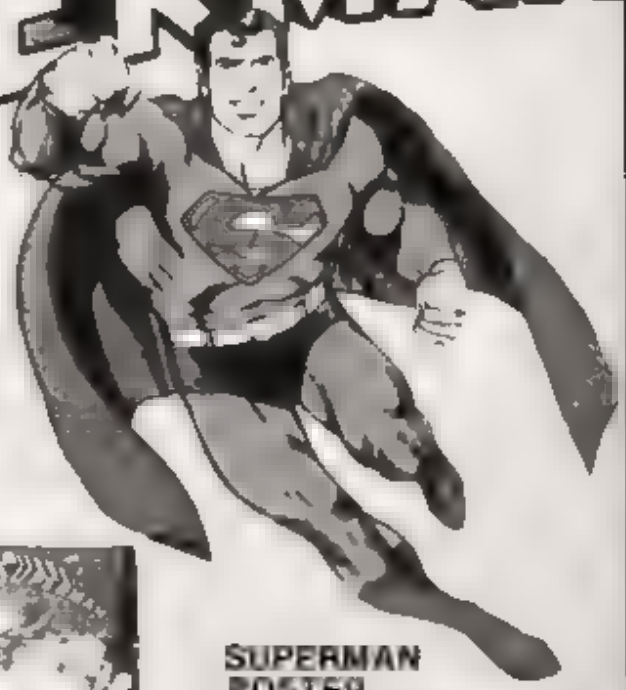
A Super Selection for Superman Collectors



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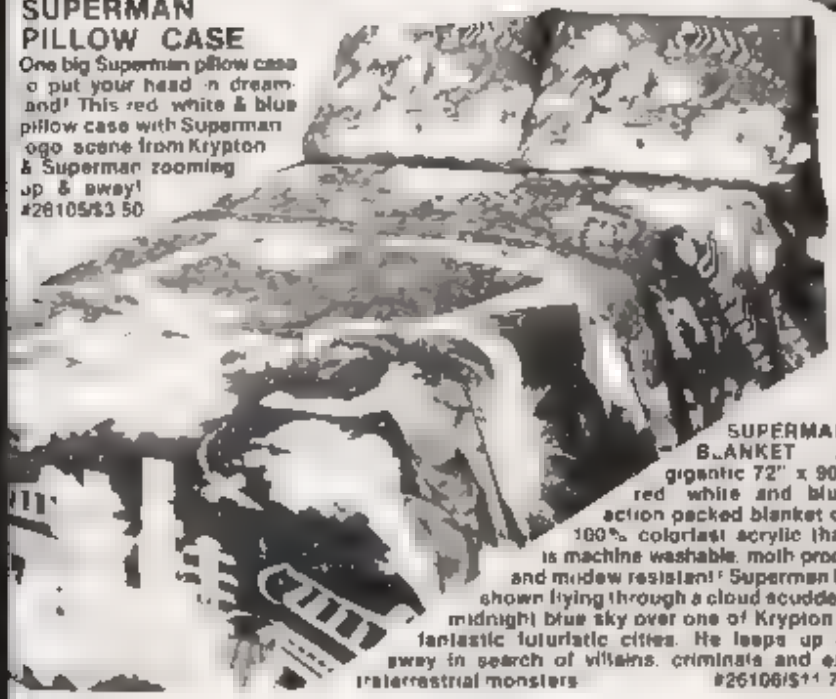

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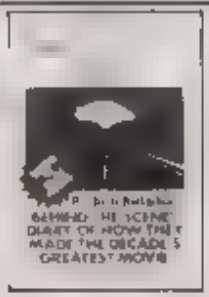

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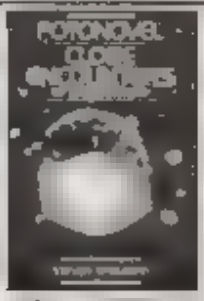

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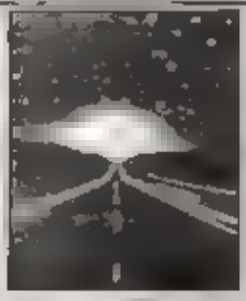

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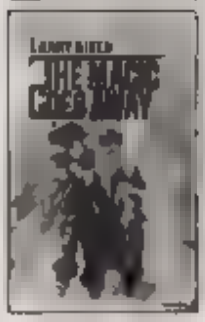

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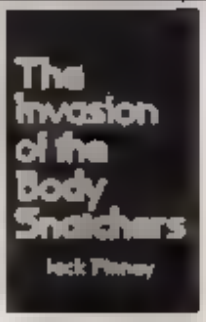

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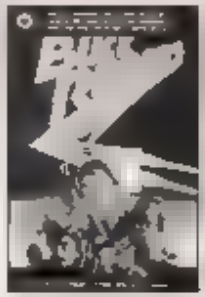

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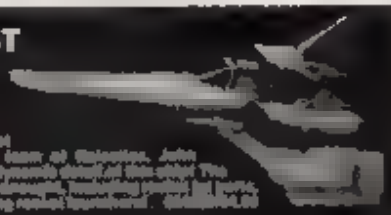

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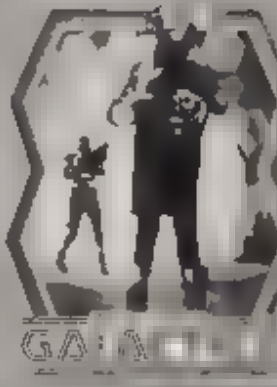

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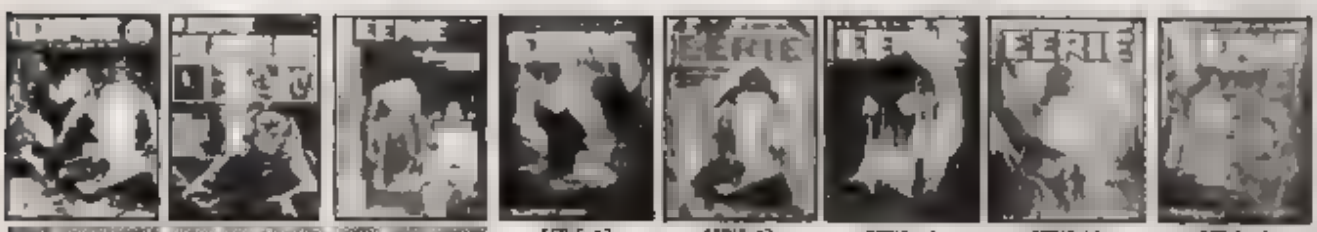

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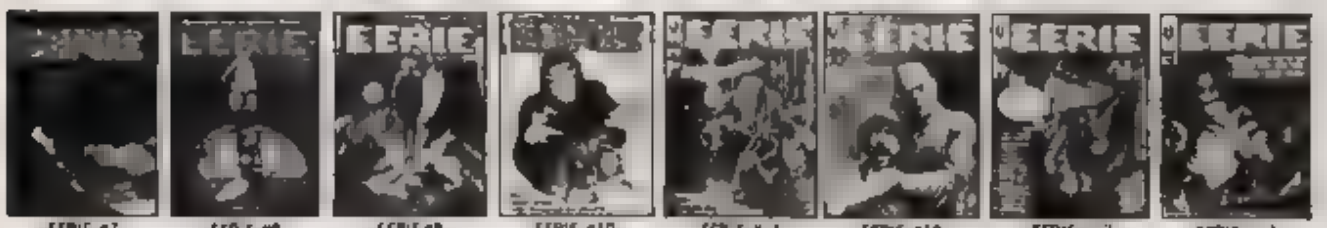

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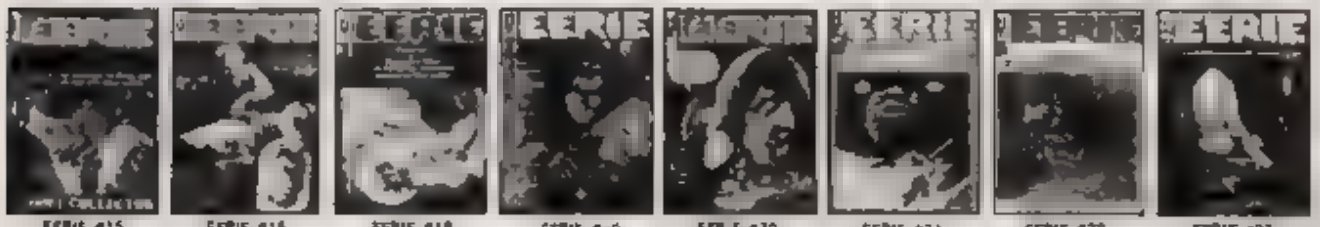

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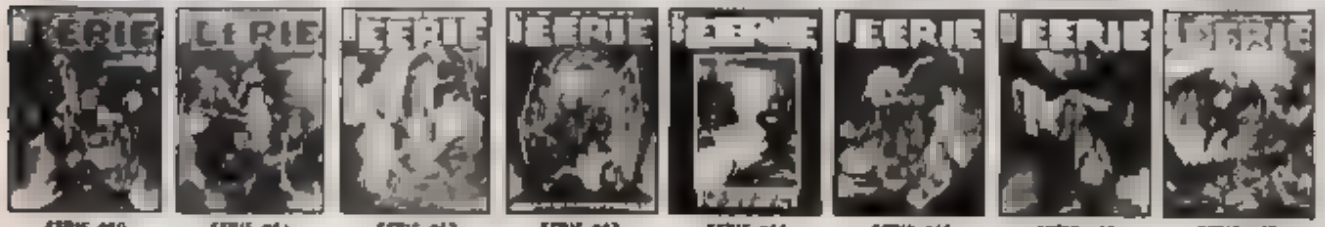

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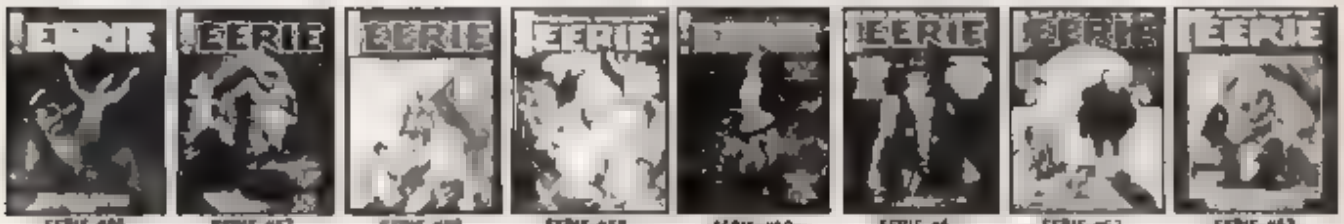

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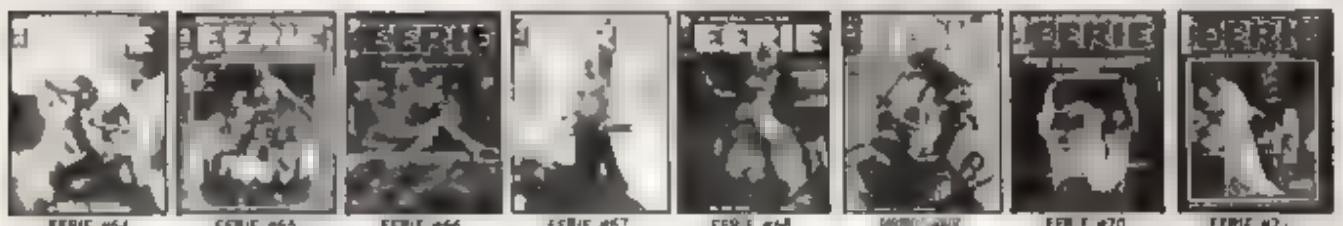

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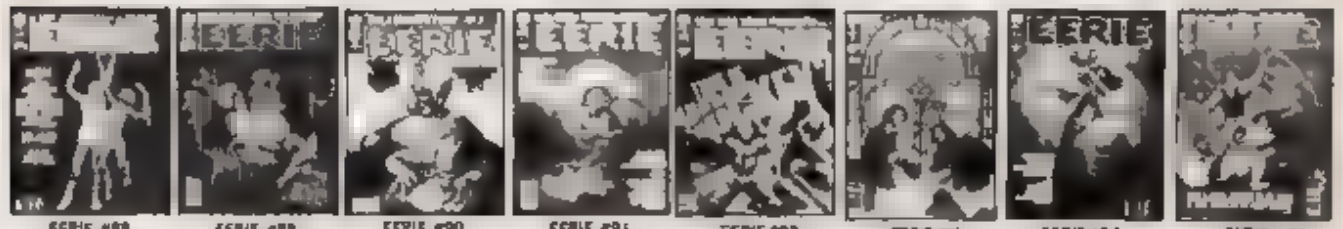

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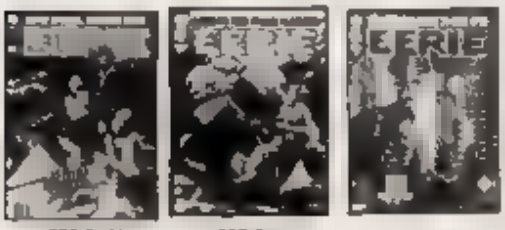

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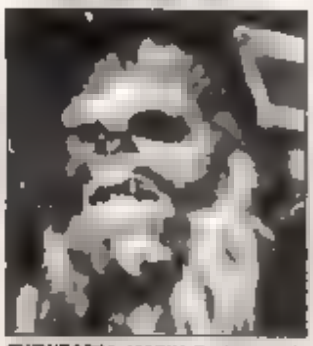
STORMTROOPER MASK! Gleaming white rigid plastic mask with see through plastic eyes. #25005/$43.95

CHEWBACCA MASK



CHEWBACCA MASK! Realistic soft latex over the head fur mask with hand applied fur #25007 $37.95

DARTH VADER MASK

DARTH VADER MASK! Shining black rigid plastic full-helmet/mask of the evil Jedi! 8 phases. #25008/$69.95

SUPER 8 FILMS

The entertainment! The drama of STAR WARS can be yours! Now view selected scenes from the year's best movie in your own home. BLACK AND WHITE SUPER 8 SILENT FILM WITH SUB-TITLES #22121/$6.95

COLOR SILENT SUPER 8 #22123/$10.95

COLOR SUPER 8 FILM WITH SOUND #22122 $31.50

DOUBLE RECORD

STAR WARS ALBUM Now Warner offers you the most spell-binding music from the movie that does it all. Star Wars' incredible sound track is brought back alive. This two record long playing, stereo album with its pulse-pounding music rockets into orbit permanently. This hottest selling album is guaranteed to go high. #2387 $8.95

STAR WARS PAPERBACK BOOK

STAR WARS NOVEL by the film's Writer/director George Lucas! Read this exciting book and relive the movie's incredible adventure! This spellbinding 220 page paperback has a special section with 16 pages of thrilling full color scenes from the fantastic movie! #21262 $1.95

STAR WARS FULL COLOR POSTER

THE SWORD POSTER Paste this big 20"x28" poster on the wall for inspiration. A painting by Hildebrandt, it has Luke & Leia rendered in golden hues with a formidable Darth Vader glaring from the sky. C-3PO & R2D2 are there! Full, color! #2890/$2.00

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- #2749 MEN'S SMALL $4.95

ROBOTS
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- #2752 MEN'S SMALL $4.95

C-3PO & LUKE
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- #2755 MEN'S SMALL $4.95

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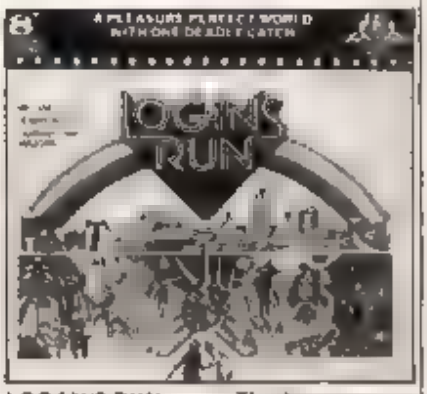
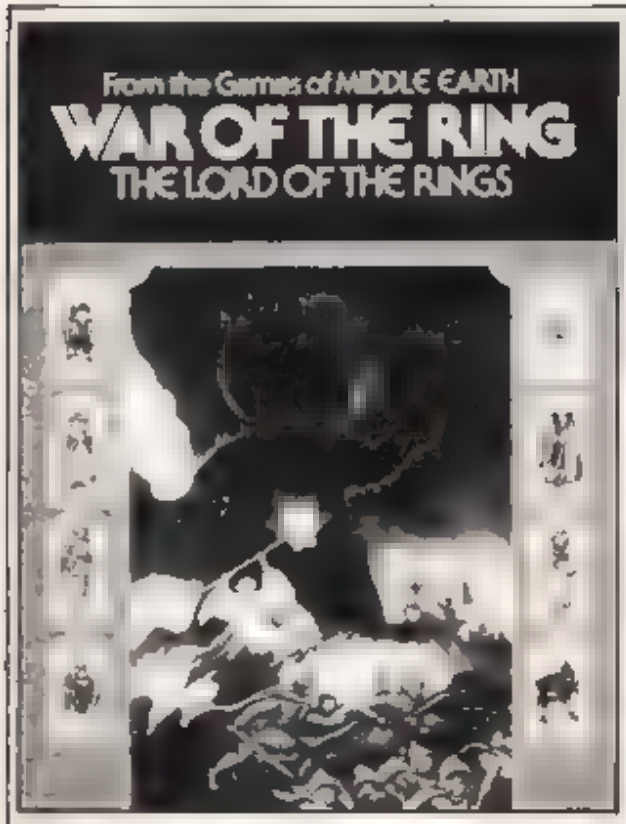
3 SUPER 8 MOVIES WITH SOUND!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS The movie that started it all. Science fiction at it's best about the epochal visit of aliens to Earth. We are not alone! All the action and adventure plus the fantastic music from the original. 18 minutes 370 foot super 8 in a superb color & sound film! #22125/$49.95

WIZARD OF OZ America's favorite all time fantasy film in which Dorothy gets whirled away from Kansas and over the rainbow! All the madcap adventures and all the great production numbers & songs are here. 18 minutes 370 foot super 8 in a superb color & sound film! #22127/$54.95

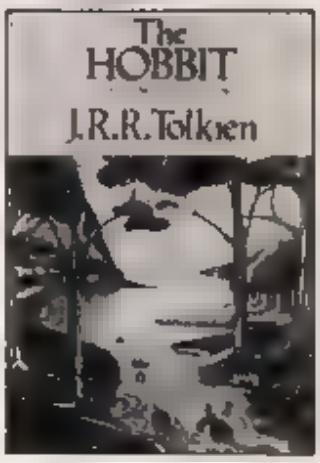


LOGAN'S RUN Thrilling science fiction fantasy of the 23rd century where you are over-the-hill and dead on your 30th birthday! Farrah Fawcett Majors and Michael York seek to escape this dazzling world in this 18 minute 370 foot super 8 in a superb color & sound film! #22128/$54.95



WAR OF THE RING The great sweep of J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings is brought alive so you can experience the same adventures as Frodo in this epochal game of sword & sorcery. Comes with board, chits and a complete instruction manual & rules of various levels of play as well as a history of all the characters and locations! This is a two player game in which the free people [illegible] fight the forces of the Dark Lord Sauron in the Third Age #26000/$15.00

EXCITING GAME! GREAT PUZZLES! from LORD of the RINGS



LORD OF THE RINGS PUZZLE
This incredible two sided puzzle features a map of Middle Earth and on the flip side there is Tolkien's painting "Bilbo Comes to the Hole of the Rainelves". Both in full color 21"x15", 500 pieces #24112/$8.95

MAP OF MIDDLE EARTH
Pauline Baynes strikes again as the very beautifully renders Tolkien's cartography of Middle Earth in true mariner fashion! This fantastic puzzle is in full color and has over 500 pieces! #24113/$4.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

STAR WARES

STAR WARS CHARM BRACELET

STAR WARS CHARM BRACELET The two super heroes and one super villain of Star Wars face each other like three mortal ready to do battle for cosmic causes. A fine inch golden chain is the force which binds a ½" obsidian black Darth Vader to a golden 7 C3PO & to a detailed brushed chrome ½" R2D2. Great way to put the stars to bed! #26066/$4.95

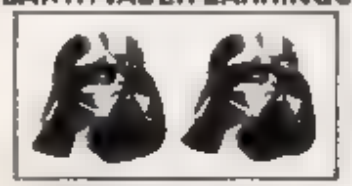
R2D2 & C3PO WATCH

STAR WARS WATCH R2D2 & C3PO stand on top of this star studded watch. From Tatooine to the depths of space the dynamic duo these metal mavens, these parsec droids battle their way across the galaxy! What daring do are these 2 droids up to in their head sheets? And what will you be up to with them on your wrist? Spacesuit red color face easy to read numbers & adjustable band. Hot counter Chex chrome! #26100/$7.95

DARTH VADER WATCH

STAR WARS WATCH Darth Vader stands on the face of this fabulous watch with his right sabre drawn & his cape flung open in a battle ready stance! The dark lord of the Empire shows his authority, his deadly nature & space fighting attitude that make the stars illuminated shiver in his presence! Darth tells time for you. A colorful face, easy to read numbers & adjustable band. Hot counter. There is a [illegible] #26101/$21.95

DARTH VADER EARRINGS



DARTH VADER EARRINGS Now you can take Sith spell inside with you wherever you go! These gleaming black earrings, with hypo-allergenic posts, will add a sinister obsidian black shimmer to your ears and to your every curve! Will go fast! #26068/$3.95

SPECTACULAR STAR WARS STICK PINS

DARTH VADER STICK PIN Member of the Wise Kenobi and Luke Skywalker finally has very quite very pin in a glossy black obsidian version which glows in a deadly way. Let all know that you are not one to be trusted around with or to be taken lightly. May the Force be with you! 2 ½ [illegible] #26069/$3.95

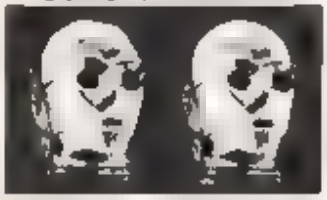
C3PO STICK PIN The loyal trusted droid of the [illegible] movie of all time proves to be the one that has it all. C3PO has a golden glow, moveable arms and legs & 2½" pin. Comes with pin clip for safety and long wear & this fabulous piece of jewelry is lasting fast! #26080/$3.95

R2D2 STICK PIN R2D2 persists step into 2½ pin with movable arms and comes with a clip clasp to guarantee safety and long wear. R2D2 was never one to short his circuits so he wheeled his way through thick and thin. Able only to speak to other droids he guarded rebel secrets! R2D2—2½" #26087/$3.95

R2D2 EARRINGS

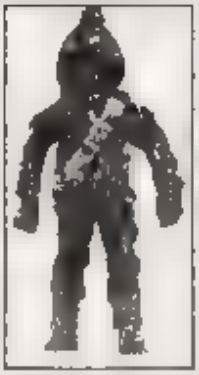
ARTOO DETOO EARRINGS 2 R2D2's. One for each ear! These finely crafted earrings will add a sentry glow to your ears as you started your own Darth Vader sonar tracking wedge. The ½ hypo-allergenic & wearable for hours of fun! #26069/$3.95

C3PO EARRINGS



C3PO EARRINGS Star Wars favorite cosmic character will spread his golden ears from your ears. C3PO is finely crafted a brilliant gold in color hypo-allergenic & fascinating! This wearable piece of jewelry is guaranteed to go fast! #26071/$3.95

CHEWBACCA PENDANT & CHAIN



CHEWBACCA PENDANT & CHAIN An easy everyone loves to love. The 8 foot fighting machine charmed half the galaxy with his cute and cuddly face fur and fighting. Whether he is clashing his way out of Death Star or actually playing the Millennium Falcon Jedi's & Sky you should have on your side! A solid gold wearable item and be had by all! Big brown metal 2" pendant 8" chain! #26076/$4.95

R2D2 PENDANT & CHAIN

R2D2 PENDANT & CHAIN The brilliant and loyal droid from Star Wars who carries the very secrets of the rebel cause in locked holographic circuits is here to intimately orbit from your neck on this pendant. Hang out with everyone's favorite robot! Star in eyes of your pal! Collect an entire set of star guys. R2D2 is 1½ highly detailed hexagonal chrome metallic array & 16 chain! #26077/$4.95

SPACESHIP CHAIN & PENDANT

SPACE SHIP PENDANT & CHAIN Fabulous flashing overhead from Star Wars that gave Luke Skywalker his hard splitting victory in the Death Star Trench, which from [illegible] in this large finely made [illegible] pendant of [illegible] Pendant is 1 [illegible] with [illegible] chain! #26[illegible]/$4.95

DARTH VADER PENDANT & CHAIN

DARTH VADER PENDANT & CHAIN Ex-Jedi Knight & now Sith Lord to the Emperor has had former teacher Obi Wan Kenobi on Death Star. Having become ensnared by a darker side of the force Darth Vader used the teachings of Obi Wan Kenobi in the service of an Emperor trying to control an ever corrupt galaxy. Emperor A ½" pendant mark with phosphor black enamel 16" chain #26075/$4.95

C3PO PENDANT & CHAIN

C3PO PENDANT & CHAIN The unpredictable droid escaped from Star Wars where has become scattered in cosmic events, proved his courage over and over again. C3PO wore his skin on the outside but is really colorful on the inside as a hard of gold & droids have souls. Now surely C3PO has your! Metallic gold golden tone. 2" high & with 8" chain to be hung from your neck! #26073/$4.95

STAR WARS BELT BUCKLES

DARTH VADER BELT BUCKLE Lord Darth Vader's sinister black face mask proves he is the Master of Evil. The former Jedi Knight appears in relief on our lustrous 2" x 3" bronze belt buckle. #26073/$4.75

STAR WARS BELT BUCKLE This lustrous bronze 2" x 3" buckle contains the logo of the most popular movie of all time, of all space, of this or any other universe. The buckle is cast in heavy metal. #26072/$4.75

SPACE SHIP BELT BUCKLE The greatest space ships ever made come darting around the curve of a dead moon. Deadly fighting ships from Star Wars embellish our heavy bronze belt buckle. 3½ x 2½ #26074/$4.75

C3PO & R2D2 BELT BUCKLE The dynamic duo of the space wars, heroes of Star Wars and saviours of the universe have landed in our heavy metal lustrous bronze belt buckle. 2" x 3" HOT STUFF #26075/$4.75

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM

STAR WARS COLLECTOR'S CLASSICS!

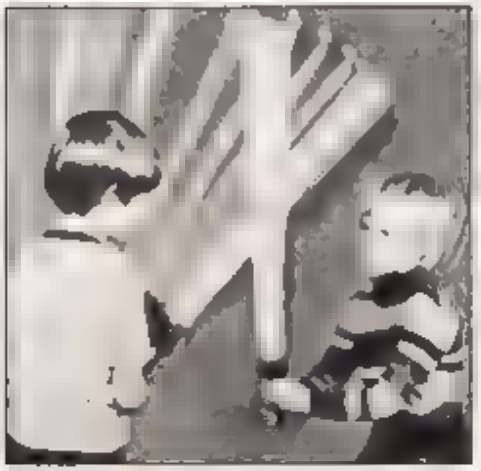
NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!

STAR WARS 400 ft. MOVIE

You've seen the greatest movie of all time a dozen times & you want more? Bring it home! Super 8 color & sound at 400 ft. See the stars! #26104/$64.95

STAR WARS 1979 CALENDAR

14 photos never before printed from Star Wars of everyone & everything — R2D2, Leia, Luke, Han C3PO & so much more! Wow! Get in line for 79! #26102/$4.95



FORCE BEAM
An incredible force beam to simulate the laser swords of Star Wars! Now your arsenal is complete! You too can fight old, evil Darth, to the death for once and for all! What can Darth do? Can good triumph? Will the rebels win? Two D cell batteries not included 26041/$7.95 2 for $14.95

STAR [illegible] 12 detailed giant-sized blueprints including Death Star, Sandcrawler, Millennium Falcon. Unfold to about 9"x30"! #26038/$6.95

Of all the magazines which feature articles on STAR WARS, ours was the first, most complete and the finest! Buy! STAR WAR SPECTACULAR $3.00

Joe Johnston's drawings for Star Wars are pulled together in this 8½"x 11" paperback which is chock full of black and white sketches of every conceivable machine, pod, ship, weapon and Death Star itself. The drawings are the initial designs for all the models from the film with commentary about the problems of each sketch! 96 pages. #26028/$4.95

The incredible Ralph McQuarrie whose paintings were the inspiration for the sets, costumes and scenery for Star Wars are collected in this paperback. All the paintings are in full color & printed on unbacked high quality paper which is suitable for framing! The paintings are loaded with action and are rich in detail! #26029 $7.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

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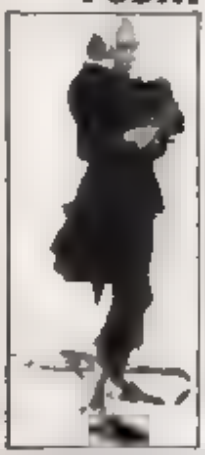
"FABULOUS GIFTS FOR SUBSCRIBERS! TODAY!" CROAKS UNCLE CREEPY!



The first and finest magazine in comic art fiction. A fantastic publication featuring the best in graphic horror stories from the most talented artists and writers in the field. If you subscribe now for one year (9 big issues) you receive the exciting "Monster Match" game absolutely free! Many hours of fun are yours as you buy and trade monsters to your playmate (little head's content). Or subscribe for two years (18 huge magazines) and we'll send you a full color poster of lovable Uncle Creepy. This print of a painting by Sanjulian is 28 x20" with rich colors that almost make the delightful gentleman appear to be (gasp) human! It is a classic portrait and a must for all monster art fans. We know that you would have subscribed to Creepy anyway, since it is often copied but never equaled, however, this is our way of thanking our loyal fans. If you aren't a fan yet, become one. Have Creepy sent to your home and receive a bonus gift!

"SUBSCRIBE NOW & GET FREE BONUS GIFTS!" MOANS COUSIN EERIE!

The most exciting and unique comic magazine in the world of illustrated terror, featuring comic's greatest artists and writers. When you subscribe for one year (Many 9 horrific issues) a free Creepy Gravity Castle Game will be yours. Warren Publishing Company proudly presents this devilish game of strategy and victory in a deadly race through the slimy maze of the Castle Creepy. Subscribe for two years (18 magnificent issues) and you will receive a 28 x20" full color Sanjulian rendering of dear Cousin Eerie with much gruesome detail (shrinking). Great if is ideal for decorating your dungeon or hung it next to Uncle Creepy. Never was there a more gruesome twosome. Cousin Eerie wants to come to your house so much that he's bribing you (shhh) with free gifts. If you can fully appreciate of his offer he'll hold his breath until he turns purple. Therefore we ask you all to fill out the coupon at the bottom part of this page.

VAMPIRELLA PURRS "SUBSCRIBERS, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A GIFT!"

For visions of demonic fantasy featuring the Universe's most alluring vampire "Vampirella" will arrive at your door if you subscribe now! A one year subscription gives you 9 fantastic issues and a greatsoder game of "Capture" as well, absolutely free! Splash in the exciting and diabolical game of battling monsters and satanic laws. Or subscribe for two years (18 bizarre issues) and receive a special full-color traffic stopper Vampirella sticker! Display her on your auto bonus, walls, forehead or anywhere. You can take her for a ride on your bicycle. Be sure she comes in you (by subscription!) Who can afford to miss a single blood-curdling episode in the pulsating adventures of the famed female fiend from Drexulan, planet of scarlet suns? Besides her own and growing fans, the pages are bursting with scare stories featuring ghosts, ghouls and long legged gals and things that go bumpity-bump in the night. So subscribe now and get the "Capture" game or the Vamp-sticker. It's up to you!

FREE GIFT WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND!

Now is your chance! Have Famous Monsters of Filmland delivered to your door and become an in the know instead of a left out person. Each month you will receive a letter package complete with all the new and old monsters that have made horror movies the thrilling genre it is today. Famous Monsters reveals to you what monster lists are all about! Subscribe now for one year (9 chill-filled issues) and we'll send you a magnificent full-color poster of the great Vincent Price as the mad sculptor from "House of Wax" (not painted by the renowned Basil Gogos and is yours, absolutely free! Subscribe now for two years (18 spectacular issues) and receive a full color 28"x20" poster commemorating our 100th issue of Famous Monsters. Featured on the poster is Boris Karloff as the Frankenstein Monster!

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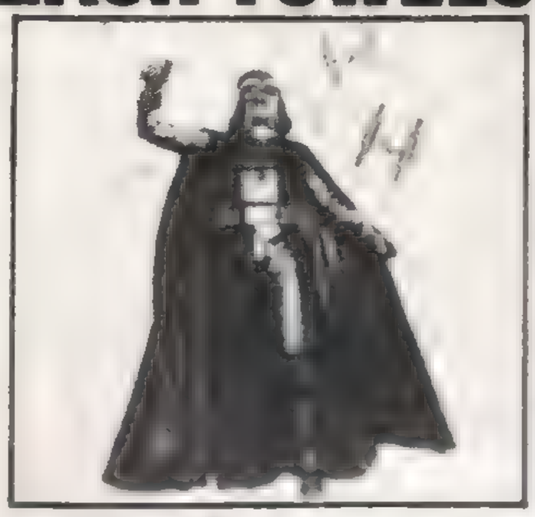
STAR WARS BEACH TOWELS

TWO ROBOTS BEACH TOWEL Rest easy at the beach with C-3PO and R2-D2. Robot figures printed in full color on 100% cotton velour background. Towel hemmed and measures 31"x60". #26052/$6.00



DARTH VADER BEACH TOWEL This fabulous 100% cotton, 31"x60" hemmed beach towel sports Darth Vader's image surrounded by attacking tie fighters and Star Wars logo. Full color. #26062/$6.00

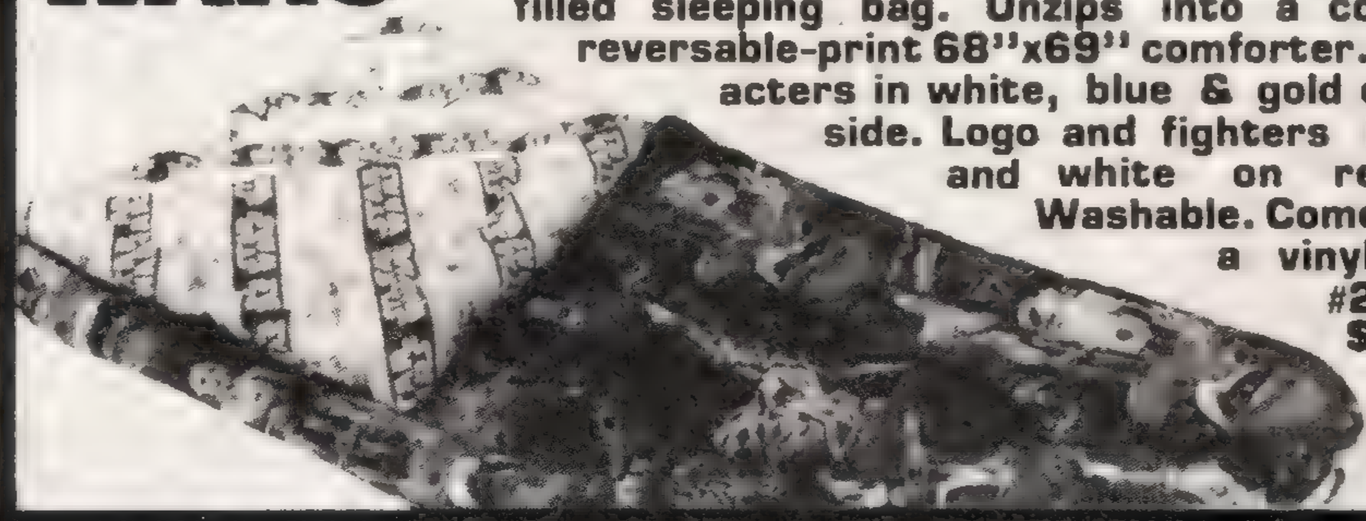
NEW! NEW! NEW! STAR WARS GOODIES!

STAR WARS TOOTH-BRUSH

Faces of Luke, Leia, Han Solo, R2-D2, C-3PO, Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Obi-Wan Ken-Obi decorate this automatic toothbrush! Recommended up & down brush action makes it a winner in the war against tooth-decay. 2 "C" batteries power this mechanical marvel. 2 brightly- colored replacement brushes put you ahead of the game. Watch the moving parts "move" in the transparent handle. A robot-toothbrush, a Star Warrior's dream. #26070/$6.50

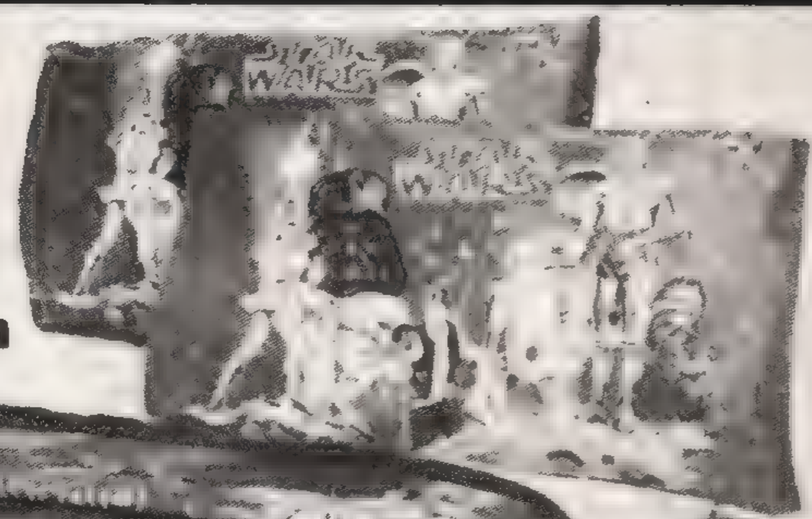
STAR WARS SLEEPING BAG

Get into "Star Wars" with this synthetic-fiber filled sleeping bag. Unzips into a colorful, reversable-print 68"x69" comforter. Characters in white, blue & gold on one side. Logo and fighters in blue and white on reverse. Washable. Comes with a vinyl tote. #26050/ $27.95



STAR WARS PILLOWCASES

Dream of galaxies long ago and far, far away on colorful blue, white and gold percale pillowcases featuring a dramatic scene with Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, Artoo Detoo, See Threepio & Chewbacca! These pillowcases come 1 to a package and fit any standard-size normal pillows! #26049/$3.50



STAR WARS BLANKET

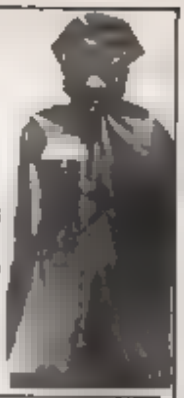
A "force-ful" way to stay warm! new, colorful, 100% acrylic blanket, featuring "Star Wars" villains, 'droids, heroines and heroes! Vivid blues, golds & whites create a multi-hued blanket with beauty and durability. An asset to any "Star Wars" fan's room and/or collection! #26051/$11.75

STAR WARS MODELS

STAR WARS FLYING MODEL ROCKETRY

STAR WARS FLYING MODEL ROCKETRY KIT Blast off in hot pursuit of Darth Vader in a half hour of receiving this incredible kit! Battery separate. Ages 12 and up. #24201/$12.95

DARTH VADER COSTUME & MASK



DARTH VADER COSTUME & MASK Wear the hood, cape and mask of the insidious Sith Lord. Made of long-lasting vinyl, one size can fit a child of any age. The last of the Jedi Knights. Buy #26048/$4.95

R2-D2 MODEL KIT Easy-to-build.

R2-D2 MODEL KIT When he is constructed R2-D2 spans 6" high with a moveable head and legs. A must for fans. #24197/$4.50

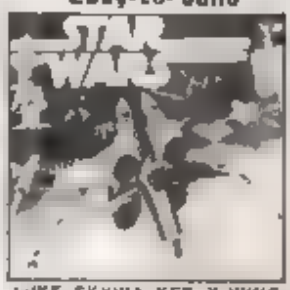
DARTH VADER'S TIE FIGHTER MODEL KIT Easy-to-build

LORD DARTH VADER'S TIE FIGHTER MODEL KIT A highly detailed model kit of Darth Vader's own ship. When assembled the craft is 6¾" long with a 7½" wing-span ready to defend the Dark Star from Rebel Forces. #24200/$5.50

C-3PO MODEL KIT Easy-to-build

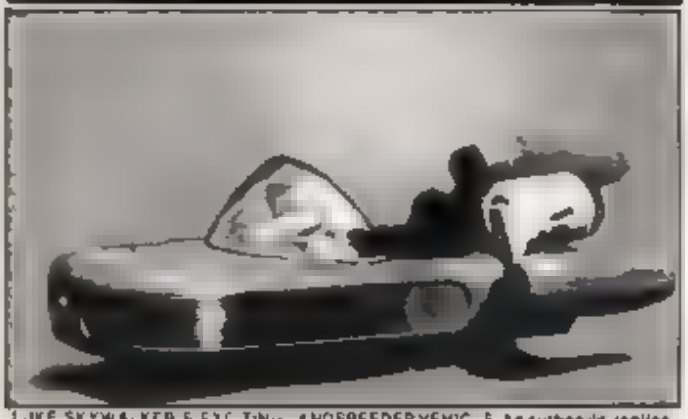
C-3PO MODEL KIT The golden droid stands a fun 10" tall when built. His body bends at the waist and his arms move. #24198/$4.50

X-WING FIGHTER MODEL KIT Easy-to-build



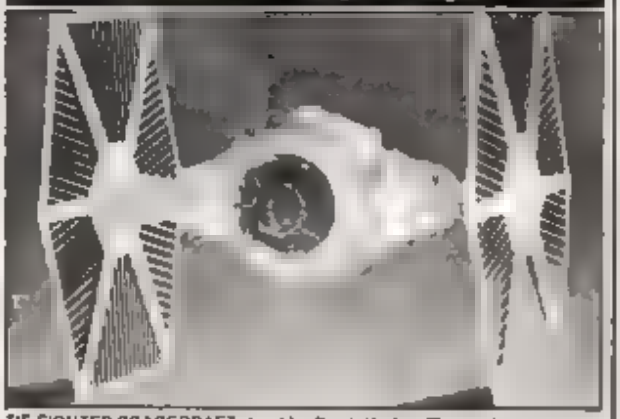
LUKE SKYWALKER X WING FIGHTER MODEL KIT Sleek & savage! Here is the rebel ship which Luke piloted when he attacked Death Star. 12" from its nose to rear, 10" wingspan. The X Wings move from hold to combat ready. #24199/$5.50

LUKE SKYWALKERS EXCITING LANDSPEEDER VEHICLE Comes assembled 9-½" long, 3" high.



LUKE SKYWALKER'S EXCITING LANDSPEEDER VEHICLE An authentic replica of Luke's desert roadster. The hood opens for access to the engine and a shift lever releases the spring loaded wheels which simulates floating ride. Passenger compartment can carry Action Figures. Fantastic! #24187/$7.50

TIE FIGHTER SPACE CRAFT Comes assembled. 14" long, 12" high, 3" wide.



TIE FIGHTER SPACECRAFT Used by Darth Vader. The cockpit opens to allow an Action Figure to be seated. Solar panels may be ejected simulating battle damage and for defense the fighter has a laser light and emits a whining laser sound you control! #24188/$15.95

X-WING FIGHTER 9" long x 9" wide. Already fully assembled.

X WING FIGHTER Push down R2-D2's head permanent navigator and the wings open to combat position. The rear button engages the laser and sound. The cockpit canopy raises to open position so a Star Wars Action Figure might be seated in the fighter. A perfect spacecraft for destroying Death Star or for a battle with Darth Vader's deadly Tie Fighter. Buy Amazing! #24185/$15.95

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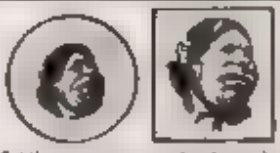

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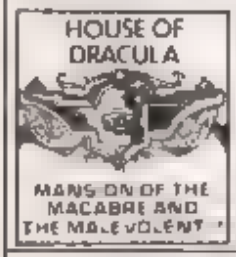

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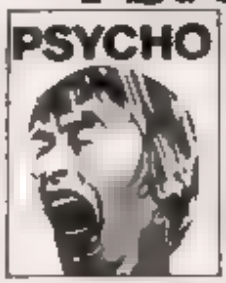

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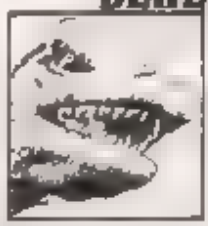

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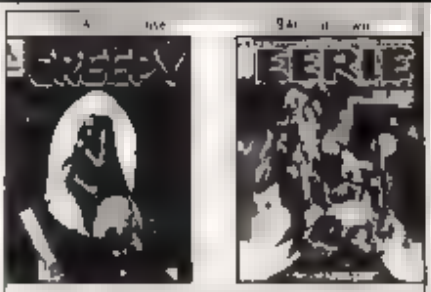

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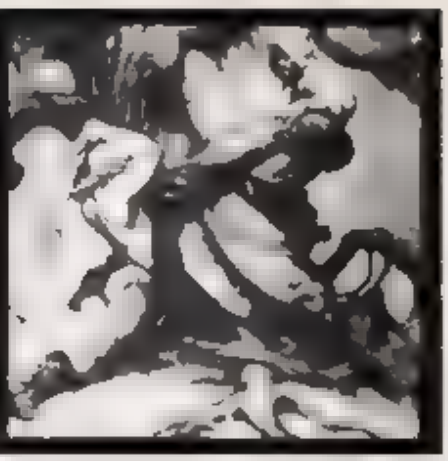

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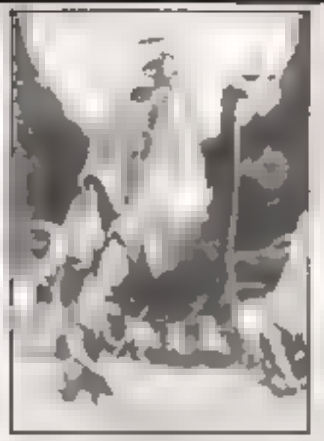

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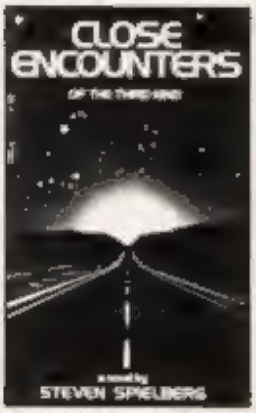

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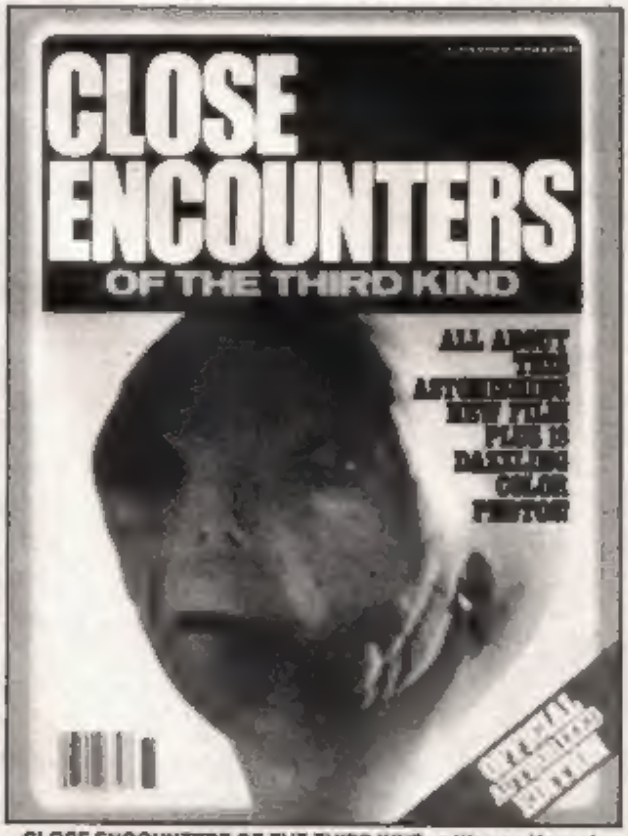

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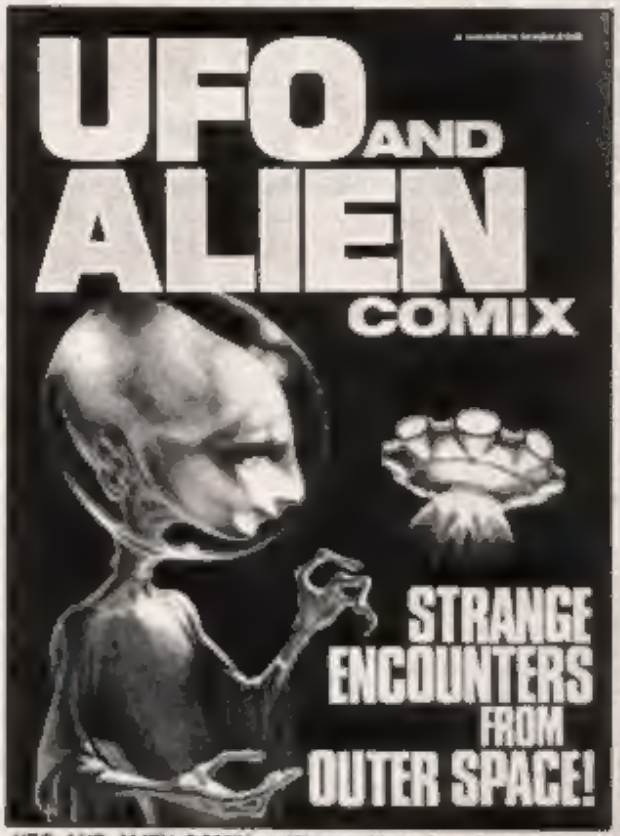

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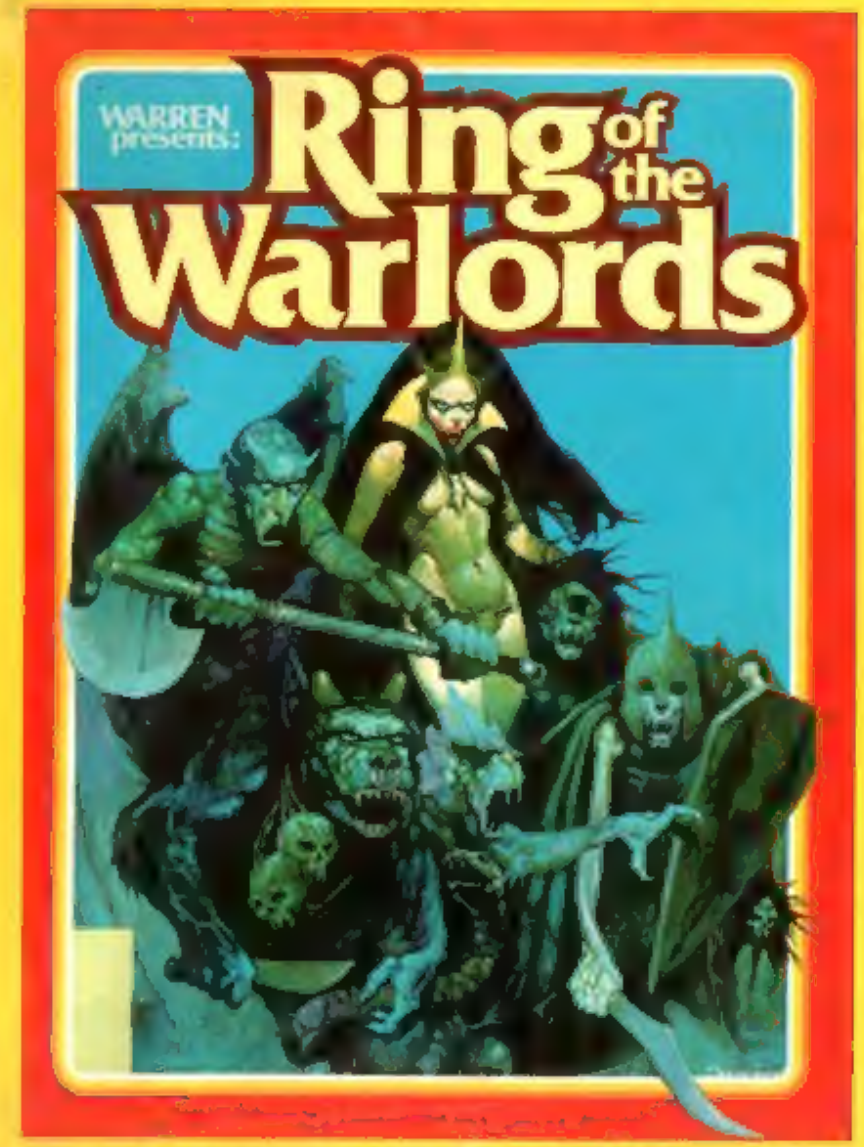

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